

THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER

OF SPORT



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Hijackers face trial in Britain

By Bill Frost
Arthur Leathley
and Michael Evans

THE Government was resisting pressure from Tory backbenchers last night to expel seven Iraqi dissidents who were being held after the hijack of a Sudan Airways Airbus with 199 people on board was brought to a peaceful end at Stansted airport.

The hijackers, who were apparently armed only with knives and imitation weapons, gave themselves up to Essex police after releasing all the passengers and crew during almost eight hours of delicate negotiations.

They immediately sought political asylum and are expected to be tried in Britain. The maximum penalty for air piracy is life imprisonment.

As police interrogated the hijackers, it emerged that family members were among the Airbus passengers. All were seeking political asylum, fearing persecution should they return to Baghdad.

Six women, believed to be related to the hijackers, were being held for questioning and two children, also thought to be family members, were in "police care".

Senior ministers said that forcing the hijackers to return to Sudan, where the hijack started, would effectively lead to their deaths in a country which has close ties with Iraq.

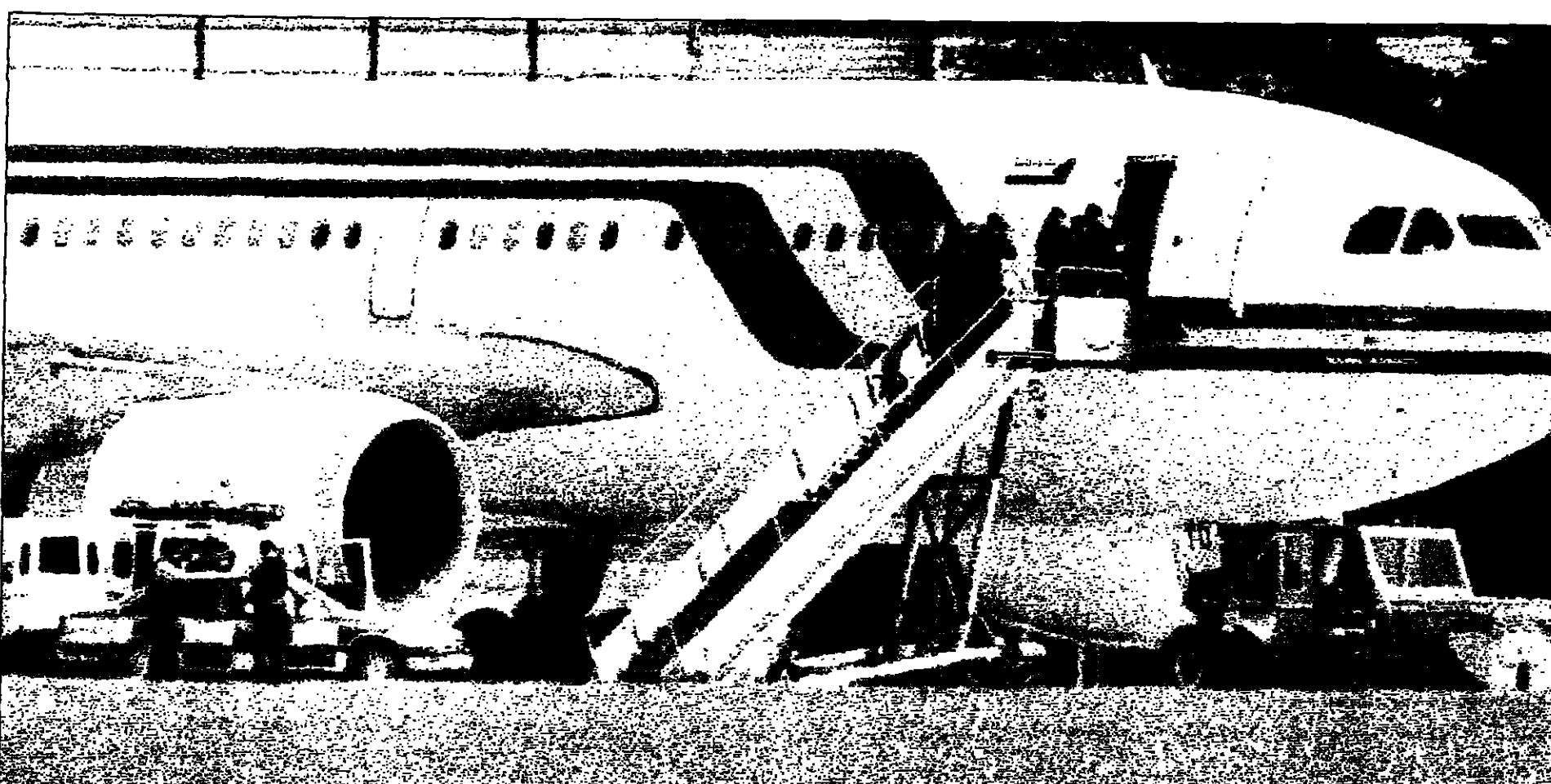
One minister said: "We will take tough action against these people and we will not tolerate terrorism, but this must be handled through the normal rules of justice and not by some despotic regime. It is extremely unlikely these people will be sent to Sudan or Iraq."

Ministers confirmed that the hijackers could face a maximum life sentence in Britain.

Britain's relations with Sudan are poor, because of claims by London that the Sudanese Government is sponsoring international terrorism. "Sending these people to Sudan would be as bad as sending them to Iraq," a Foreign Office source said.

However, David Howell, the Tory chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, said the hijackers should be deported.

He said: "Hijacking is a horrendous crime and hijackers must be dealt with with the utmost severity. There must



Armed police board the aircraft, above, at the end of the hijack. Below: A group of passengers, arms raised, disembark. Pictures: ANTHONY UPTON/FRANCIS DIAS



be no concessions, the very hint of a concession is a guarantee that some other people down the line — some innocents — will be murdered." If the Government failed to expel them, he said, hijackers would see terrorism as an easy way to gain asylum in Britain.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *World at One*, Mr Howell said: "If the word gets round that the quick way to asylum is three years in jail and then you're out, and in the country where you wanted to get to, that would be absolutely disastrous to the whole policy towards asylum seekers."

Ministers tried to head off a potential political row by making it clear that any asylum application would not be dealt with until criminal proceedings had taken place, although it remained unclear last night exactly when that stage might be reached.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, were at the heart of urgent discussions on Monday night after the Foreign

Office was first told of the hijackers' demands. John Major, at his home in Huntingdon, was also kept closely informed of developments as aviation agencies and police set in motion contingency plans for dealing with a hijacked aircraft.

The Home Office said that under the 1970 Hague Convention, dealing with "unlawful seizure of aircraft", Britain was obliged to do all it could to help a plane in distress.

The decision to allow the plane to land at Stansted,

however, was taken by John Burrow, the Chief Constable of Essex, after consultation with the airport authorities, the Home Office said. Suggestions that the Government had changed its policy over accepting hijacked aircraft were rejected by ministers. In 1985, the Government made it clear that Britain, in compliance with an internationally-agreed counter-terrorist policy, would refuse to allow hijacked aircraft to take off after landing in this country.

The hijack of the Sudan Air A310 ended without bloodshed

when the seven high-ranking Iraqis freed their hostages and gave themselves up to armed police. After emerging from the cabin they were ordered at gunpoint to lie face down on the tarmac. Between 6.25am and noon all 179 passengers had been allowed to walk free by their captors — marking a successful outcome to the first hijack to end on British soil since 1982.

After a search of the jet, police said they had found a number of knives and some replica firearms. But there was no trace of high explosive

or hand grenades, as had been reported in Cyprus, to where the plane diverted after taking off for Amman, in Jordan, from Khartoum. It refuelled in Larnaca before flying to Stansted.

Mr Burrow paid tribute to the plane's pilot. He said that Captain Abdul Hamid Hidirbi had landed at Stansted without charts — "a considerable achievement."

Mr Burrow said the English-speaking captain, who negotiated with police on the hijackers' behalf, had covered himself in credit. "We have to

take our hats off to this man." United Nations sanctions have meant that there have been no international flights in or out of Baghdad since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1989. Iraqis would not have been able to fly directly from the capital, Baghdad, direct to Khartoum, but would have to go via Amman. All Iraqis need exit visas to leave the country. These can often be obtained for heavy bribes.

Last night it was claimed in Khartoum that airport staff knew two days before Flight 150 was hijacked that "something was likely to happen". But intense security failed to prevent the hijacking.

Republic of fear, pages 2, 3
Leading article, page 13

Control to pilot: we owe you a large milkshake

PART of the dialogue between Stansted control tower and the aircraft's captain, Abdul Hamid Hidirbi, was broadcast last night.

7am — Cockpit: They [the hijackers] are not fundamentalists. They don't belong to any political party or terrorist group. They are ordinary people, persecuted by the Saddam regime. They need protection for their families.

Control: OK. Thank you for that. That is all perfectly understood and believed. Could they please release another batch in any case?

11.30am — Control: People must leave the aircraft one by one. Nobody else is to leave the aircraft until I say so. Understand? OK?

Cockpit: Copy. Control: They must come out slowly with their hands in front. If they are carrying any weapons or explosives they are to hold them out in front, place them at the bottom of the steps and leave them there.

Cockpit: The hijackers will release their families first. Their families will leave first, the females and children. [The families then slowly left the aircraft followed by the hijackers themselves. The crew stayed on board].

1.20pm — Control: Captain, before I tell you to come out, can I just say we think you've done a marvellous job and I think we owe you a large milkshake.

Cockpit: I do owe you a large thanks for being patient with us. And thank you very much for your co-operation. Control: That is not a problem. Likewise. OK. Thank you. Goodbye.

Early release fiasco freed 537 prisoners

By Richard Ford



"It's the law in England — everybody gets released early"

THE Prison Service admitted last night that 537 prisoners were freed as a result of the early release debacle — six times the number previously publicly admitted.

Richard Tilt, the Director-General, told the Home Secretary of the true scale of the scandal engulfing the 136 jails in England and Wales only last night. The average period for which prisoners have been released early is estimated at three months.

Mr Tilt, who cut short his holiday in Italy to deal with the fiasco, also disclosed that a further 400 inmates were due to be released during the next few days until Michael Howard intervened late on Friday to stop the moves. A further 4,000 inmates can expect to have their release brought forward after recalculation of their sentences.

The Home Secretary told a press conference that he had been advised by lawyers that it would be impossible to return the freed 537 to jail and that he was seeking further legal advice on the matter.

The Home Secretary, with Mr Tilt at his side, said he had first learned that 537 prisoners

rather than the earlier figure of 86 had been freed from jail after new guidance was sent to governors on August 15.

"I first knew that [figure] this evening. I have made it clear that I regard this as a very serious event."

But Mr Tilt is not to be sacked from the £77,000-a-year post he took up full-time four months ago. It was made clear that Mr Howard did not demand his resignation and that Mr Tilt had not offered it. Last night Whitehall sources suggested that he had only just kept his job because ministers believe it will be difficult to find a credible replacement and are concerned about staff morale.

Mr Howard said: "Not every failure necessarily leads to resignation. [Mr Tilt] has apologised for it. He has indicated to me that he is putting in hand steps to ensure that it does not happen again."

Mr Tilt has launched an internal Prison Service review of the procedures for communicating with ministers.

Leading article and Letters, page 13

Five bodies sought by Belgians

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

BELGIAN police yesterday began digging up a garden near Charleroi after Marc Dutroux, the paedophile and confessed killer, told them where to find five more bodies.

Police sealed off the garden, a shed and a wooden house at the village of Jumet, where Bernard Weinstein, an accomplice whom Dutroux, 39, admits killing, once lived.

Michel Bourlet, the prosecutor in charge of the case, flew to the site by helicopter. "Dutroux is cooperating in the investigation," he said.

"But I have the impression that he is making us go around in circles." Two eight-year-old girls starved to death while held in captivity at Dutroux's house in Charleroi. Two other girls were rescued.

To carry out their search at Jumet, the Belgian police are using dogs and British "ground radar" employed in the hunt for bodies at the home of Fred and Rosemary West in Gloucester.

Princess appoints City accountant

By Emma Wilkins

THE Princess of Wales has appointed a new private secretary to manage her financial affairs and to help shape her public image after her divorce.

Michael Gibbins, 53, a former senior partner at KPMG, the accountants, began his new job yesterday. Married, with one son, Alexander, two, he is a part-time magistrate and keen golfer. Educated at the Sorbonne, he joined KPMG in 1961 and became a specialist in Eastern European finances, travelling often to the former Soviet Union.

"He is a sensible, hard-working chap who was very highly thought of here," a former colleague said. "He always used to work incredibly long hours and did lots of travelling."

One of Mr Gibbins's first tasks will be to help the Princess to invest her divorce settlement, said to be about £15 million. He will also take over the general running of her finances, for which she is now responsible for the first time since her marriage. During her marriage she submitted all her accounts to the Duke of Cornwall.

The position of private sec-

retary was vacated in January, when Patrick Jephson, a former Royal Navy officer, resigned. His departure came after that of Geoffrey Crawford, the Princess's press secretary, who left last November because she failed to inform him of her *Panorama* interview.

Jane Atkinson, the Princess's media adviser became the third of her senior staff to leave when she abruptly resigned last month, six months before her contract was due for renewal.

The Princess, who today loses the title HRH when her divorce becomes final, is the subject of guidelines to be issued tomorrow by Buckingham Palace on how people no longer having the rank of HRH should be addressed. An announcement will appear in the *London Gazette* marking the formal implementation of the Princess of Wales's decision to surrender her title.

The pages of the *London Gazette* were used officially to announce, in 1937, that the Duke of Windsor would be allowed to use the style HRH while his wife would not, which deeply offended him.

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'Terrorists don't bring their families with them. These were ordinary, desperate people'

The nation of fear where thousands just want to leave

THE fact that the hijackers were prepared to risk years in a British jail to escape Saddam Hussein's regime will focus international attention on the plight of millions of Iraqis left behind in the "republic of fear".

More than a million of Iraq's 22 million people are already in exile — and more would leave if they could. An Iraqi businessman in Cyprus: "I think everyone would go but Saddam's family, who live a life of wonderful luxury."

"We have become absolutely desperate. There is no hope. On the one hand we have Saddam, on the other this collective punishment called sanctions that are meant to get rid of him."

Iraq once had a flourishing arts scene and an enviable welfare system funded by huge oil wealth. It has become a pariah state: a monarchy in republican garb, with the leader's cruel sons vying to be heir apparent in case their father falls victim to an assassin's bullet. The situation was

REFUGEES

memorably put by Raed Ahmed, the Iraqi Olympic weightlifter who defected in Atlanta.

He accused Saddam and his Armani-suited sons, Uday and Qusay, of turning Iraq into a concentration camp.

Six years of crippling trade sanctions have impoverished the middle classes, caused widespread malnutrition, and spawned a crime wave that the authorities are combating with draconian punishments, including mutilations and executions. Saddam has squandered millions on building palaces while his ever-shrinking inner circle have made fortunes by cornering the black market.

The embargo, and the vigilance of United Nations weapons inspectors, have weakened Saddam, whose pampered security services have become ever more ruthless to maintain his grip on power. But his squabbling

opponents, often divided along ethnic and religious lines and exploited by rival regional powers, are even weaker.

Fratricidal fighting has again erupted between the two main Kurdish factions sheltering in a Western-protected safe haven in northern Iraq, which was meant to become the springboard for a concerted opposition.

Several failed coup attempts have been followed by widespread torture and bloody purges. More than 100 officers, including generals and brigadiers, were executed after the most recent coup attempt last month.

Earlier this month, three United States government agencies agreed that Saddam was facing increasing disaffection, but only the CIA believed he may not last another year in power. The CIA saw no immediate threats to Saddam, but reported change could come suddenly and violently, as it has throughout Iraq's history. For many Iraqis, that was wishful thinking and confirmed that Washington has no real policy to remove their tormentor.

"How can we believe the West really wants to get rid of Saddam when all we see are European and even American businessmen flocking to Iraq to line up deals once the sanctions are eased?" demanded another Iraqi businessman in Jordan. "This is a racist policy. The Security Council would never impose such sanctions against Europeans and Christians."

Many exiled Iraqis yesterday condemned the hijacking, but said it showed the desperation of ordinary people. A prominent Iraqi businessman in Jordan said: "There are 20 million more Iraqis like them."

Western diplomats in Jordan said London had a reputation among Iraqis for looking in on requests for asylum. "This was one hell of a way to ask for asylum, but their unsophisticated approach



A police armed response unit preparing to face the Iraqi hijackers after arriving at Stansted Airport in Essex early yesterday morning

National airline faces threat of UN sanctions

SUDAN Airways will be grounded by United Nations sanctions in the coming months unless the country's Islamic Government turns over three men suspected of trying to assassinate President Mubarak of Egypt.

The United Nations Security Council voted on August 16 to impose an air embargo on all aircraft "owned, leased or operated by or on behalf of Sudan Airways" but said it would decide in November when the sanctions should come into force. The air embargo is intended to force Sudan, whose leaders are already under UN travel restrictions and diplomatic sanctions, to turn over the three men who allegedly tried to kill President Mubarak in Ethiopia

last year. The UN Secretary-General is to report by November 15 on Sudan's compliance with the Security Council's demands.

Sudan argues that the suspects are not on its territory. However, Egypt and Ethiopia have taken the lead in putting pressure on the Sudanese government, with backing from Western powers like Britain.

The United States warns its citizens not to visit Sudan because of the fighting there and the Government's inability to protect visitors. Washington has not issued a standing warning about the state of security at Khartoum airport.

suggests they were indeed ordinary people: terrorists don't bring their families with them," said a European envoy.

A spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress, a coalition of opposition groups, said: "The situation under Saddam Hussein's regime may lead some Iraqis to take desperate measures. It is possible that the hijackers would prefer to live in a British jail than in Saddam's Iraq, but all Iraqis who believe in democracy and human rights would condemn terrorism and hostage-taking under any circumstances."

An Iraqi writer in Jordan said: "The West which has punished us all for Saddam's sins should not be surprised to see more acts of desperation."

Arabs dissidents find safe haven in Beirut on Thames

LONDON has long been a haven for Arab dissidents, and in the last 20 years has developed into a meeting point for people from throughout the Middle East. The W2 postal district has become an Arab London where tens of thousands of visitors and dissidents can meet, trade, campaign, relax and seek refuge.

Parts of Bayswater, the Edgware Road in particular, resemble any other Arab town with men sipping coffee and reading Arabic newspapers and weekly magazines, as well as grocery stores selling pitta bread, figs and other Middle Eastern goods.

The Palestinian writer Said Aburish describes the area, which has an estimated 700,000 visitors in summer, as Beirut on Thames. There are a range of Arabic language daily newspapers and weekly magazines, as well as grocery stores selling pitta bread, figs and other Middle Eastern goods.

Britain's lengthy historical and cultural ties with the Middle East have made the country a natural destination for Arab visitors and young people wishing to study the language.

Among the resident dissidents, the Iraqi opposition groups are the most prominent, attracted by the Government's tough stance against Saddam Hussein's regime. Latest figures show that between January and June this year, 390 Iraqis sought asylum, 290 were given refugee status and a further 70 granted

exceptional leave to remain in the UK. At the end of June, there were 695 outstanding applications for asylum from Iraqis.

Last year 570 Iraqis were granted asylum, 165 exceptional leave to remain, and 50 refused. Home Office statistics show that in 1994, 380 Iraqis were granted asylum and 220 exceptional leave to remain in 1993, 185 and 300; in 1992, 190 and 1,210. The number of applications from Middle Eastern countries, including Iraq, rose from 730 in 1988 to a peak of 2,650 in 1990 before falling to 2,295 last year.

The Iraqi community is

centred in the Camden, Ealing, Brent and Hammersmith areas of London. Opponents of the Saudi Arabian regime are based in Willesden, the Bahrainis in Cricklewood and the Tunisians in Harlesden.

While Arab groups base themselves in London because of Britain's tradition as a haven for exiled foreign dissidents, the Government is increasingly concerned that some groups are overstepping the welcome mat and testing its tolerance. In addition, friendly Arab states believe that London is becoming a centre for Islamic militants who are intent on fomenting unrest in their countries and overthrowing their regimes.

Wide reputation developed from student protests

SADIK SADAH, the Iraqi activist to whom the hijackers wanted to speak, is a British-based opponent of President Saddam Hussein and a member of the Iraqi Community Association. Friends and colleagues say his work on behalf of refugees and immigrants has given him an international reputation among those seeking to flee Iraq.

Mr Sadik arrived in Britain in the late 1970s as a student, claimed refugee status and has become a British resident. Now in his mid-40s, he lives in central London with his wife, whom he met when she came to Britain as a refugee three years ago, and their six-month-old child.

He was originally from Basra, and does not use his real family name because he has relatives still in Iraq. In 1987 he co-founded the Iraqi Community Association, a charity that provides free immigration, welfare and educational advice to Iraqis.

Mr Sadik has had a number of brushes with the Iraqi authorities over the years, according to Emad Salman, 46, the association's welfare and housing officer and its only full-time member of staff. "In the 1980s, when he was a student activist picketing the Iraqi Embassy in London, he, like many of us, was threatened by Embassy officials," Mr Emad said.

"He does not belong to any party, as far as I know, but he is motivated against the regime and supports the cause of democracy and human

rights in Iraq. He has no job; he spends most of his time working for the community." Mr Emad described his colleague, who is more than 6ft tall and broad-shouldered, as "looking like a bear, but as gentle as a cat".

The Iraqi Community Association occupies two first-floor rooms of a centre for community organisations in Hammersmith, west London. It shares an annex with the Iranian Community Association and the Kurdish Association.

The charity is supported by a £20,400 annual grant from the London Boroughs Grants Unit towards the salary of two welfare workers and the rent

and running costs of the office. It also receives £2,400 from Islington council and £700 from Hammersmith council to pay for Arabic language schools for children.

Mr Emad said that Home Office immigration officials often referred asylum-seekers arriving at London airports to the organisation. "We are not an Iraqi opposition party. It is not a political organisation, it is a British community association. However, most of the Iraqis who need assistance oppose the regime."

The association was unaware of Mr Sadik's involvement in the hijack until they heard news on the radio. Mr Sadik rang his wife during the day to assure her that he was safe.

Nightmare of the passengers

ALTHOUGH many of the passengers in the hijacked Sudanese aircraft were quickly released before bloodshed and the squalor that follows a drawn-out hijacking had had time to develop, it will still have been a terrifying experience for them. Many people still find flying frightening, but to sit in a cabin thousands of feet up in the sky with a group of people who claim to have the ability, and the will if need be, to blow them into eternity would terrify the most phlegmatic.

No form of standard upbringing or education could have prepared the victims to face a situation of that sort, far beyond the range of normal human experience. Those who have a vulnerable temperament may well suffer post-traumatic stress disorder, either now or possibly later.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is the same condition which Siegfried Sassoon and tens of thousands of other soldiers in the First World War, and all other wars, suffered. Since 1980 the symptoms have not been described as shellshock or battle fatigue, for it is realised that they can be induced in civilians as well as combatants. Post-traumatic stress disorder can occur in



Dr Thomas Stuttford

anybody when a catastrophic event has posed a serious threat to life, or way of life, or to that of a close relative or friend. Some people may suffer the disorder after witnessing a serious accident, murder, or sudden death or injury, even if they were not at risk themselves and even when the victim was previously unknown to them.

The degree of danger, the time it lasted, the nature of the surroundings in which the incident happened are all important factors but people's reactions to adverse events vary enormously. Most are amazingly resilient whereas others have a predisposition to the disorder and suffer when their companions escape relatively unscathed.

Patients with post-traumatic stress disorder are subject to a wide variety of symptoms, ranging from flashbacks, a sudden recollection of the

event, terrible nightmares and panic attacks when confronted with any event that recalls the memory of the incident, to character changes such as increased irritability, insomnia, undue suspiciousness and loss of libido, and a diminished

ment of emotional rapport with family and friends.

When the post-traumatic stress disorder is delayed in onset, or its symptoms last for more than six months, the outlook is less good than when symptoms are immediate and treatment is started early. Treatment consists of psychotherapy at its simplest, enabling the patient to restudy the event and his or her reactions to it. That will include confronting again its more grisly aspects and any less than praiseworthy, real or probably imagined, behaviour on the patient's part.

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HIJACKINGS

Reports by Michael...

Most churchgoers say Prince should not become King

BY TIM JONES

A MAJORITY of regular churchgoers believe that the Prince of Wales should not become King because of his divorce, and their opposition would harden were he to remarry, according to an opinion poll published today.

The survey of 1,000 clergy and 840 lay people, disclosed on the day of the Prince's decree absolute, indicates that the Church of England could face division over his accession. There could be a rift between the laity, supported by the clergy,

and the bishops who appear to take a more liberal view of the prospect of a divorced King.

The poll was carried out by Gallup for the Protestant Reformation Society. Gallup asked whether the heir to the throne should become Sovereign and Supreme Governor of the Church of England if divorced. Fifty-four per cent of the active laity, defined as those who had attended a service in the previous month, opposed the idea. They were supported by 51 per cent of retired clergy. Of the general population, 43 per cent said

that they would not want a divorced monarch.

The poll received a response from only a quarter of the 114 English diocesan bishops, suffragans and assistants approached. But 76 per cent of those who did reply were "strongly supportive" of the divorced heir becoming King. Forty-five per cent of full-time clergy said a divorce would make no difference to the Prince of Wales becoming King; 40 per cent said they would object.

Gallup also asked: "Should the heir to the throne become monarch and Supreme Governor if divorced

and then remarried?" This was opposed by 52 per cent of bishops, 56 per cent of full-time clergy and 70 per cent of retired clergy.

The Protestant Reformation Society was established in 1827 to safeguard the doctrine and theology of the English Reformation. Many of its members are clergy who have become increasingly disenchanted by what they consider to be a decline in the traditional values and teaching of the Church.

The Right Rev David Samuel, president of the society, who left the Church because of the ordination of

women, emphasised that no one questioned by Gallup was aware that his organisation had commissioned the poll.

The survey showed a decline in support for the Queen's continuance as Supreme Governor of the Church of England compared with a similar survey 12 years ago. Also, there was less support for the specification in the Act of Settlement that the monarch must be a member of the Church of England. The greatest support, 71 per cent, was among active Church of England laity, against 60 per cent of bishops, 49

per cent of full-time clergy and 48 per cent of the population as a whole. The survey showed a marked decline in opposition to the ordination of women among bishops (24 per cent, down from 49 per cent in 1984) and full-time clergy (26 per cent, down from 46 per cent). On the question of homosexuality, there was a small reduction in the number of people in all groups who said that the Church should not approve of homosexual acts. This was most marked among bishops, with 52 per cent taking that view now against 63 per cent in 1984.

Blackmailer was caught while using confidential bank account in Austria

Man jailed for poison threat to UK dairies

BY LIN JENKINS

A FAILED businessman who attempted to extort £250,000 from British dairy companies by threatening to contaminate their products with poisonous micro-organisms was jailed for three years by an Austrian court yesterday.

The British authorities have begun an inquiry into their failure to extradite him to Britain.

Michael Just, 37, from Nottinghamshire, was arrested when he went to withdraw money from an account he had opened in Austria for the proceeds of the blackmail. He can serve his jail term in Britain, and accepted the sentence because his wife is in custody here awaiting trial.

"I want to return to Britain as soon as possible. My wife is in jail there and expecting a child. Otherwise I would be appealing against the sentence," he said.

The prosecution asked for the statutory three days to decide whether to challenge the length of the jail term.

The prosecution said Just had used his degree in microbiology and virology at Nottingham University to hatch the plot after running into financial difficulties. After leaving university he had set up a firm specialising in methods of processing sewage, but it went bankrupt.

He then set up an information service for Internet users, but his debts grew, he was threatened with the loss of his house and his fourth child was due. It was then that he decided to turn to crime. Just told the court: "I was depressed when I got the idea to make a lot of money very quickly using criminal methods."

In early May Just obtained by mail order cultures of the bacteria



Just: wants to serve sentence in Britain because his wife is pregnant and in custody as she awaits trial here

Enterococci, which can cause digestive problems, intestinal infections and diarrhoea. He said it was "much feared" in the dairy industry. "It would not have affected me personally because I do not drink milk, but milk is an important product," he said. Just then made his blackmail demands to the five companies, in London, West Mercia, Northumbria and

Suffolk. They were to show their willingness to pay in an advertisement in *The Times*.

The money was to go to an anonymous savings account he had opened at the Creditanstalt bank in Vienna via the Internet. Just told the court: "That seemed to me the most secure method because it is all anonymous in Austria."

He wrote several times to the companies at one time

including a product carton painted black and on another one that was contaminated with the bacteria. He also threatened to go public.

Herr Schoen said the companies went to the police after tests showed that the bacteria was present in what they had been sent.

The Vienna court convicted Just on a charge of "serious blackmail". His wife Nora, 42,

is in detention in Britain awaiting trial.

West Mercia police, who coordinated the investigation into the blackmail said yesterday that they were not told he was to stand trial in Vienna. A Foreign Office spokesman said he could only imagine that the extradition order did not arrive in time. "It is something we are following up," he said.

Beach hunt inquiry turns to computer

Norfolk police last night employed a sophisticated computer system to collate information on Tom and Jodi Loughlin, the children who disappeared from the beach at Holme next the Sea more than a week ago.

Colin Sheppard, deputy chief constable, said initially that the non-computerised system being used by his officers had been adequate. After a meeting between senior members of the force yesterday, Superintendent John Hale, the officer leading the hunt, said that the Holmes major incident computer would help to process the "vast amount of information" relating to the inquiry. There had been 700 calls from the public over the weekend.

Track blamed for crash

Substandard track and signals and inept safety measures were the underlying cause of the Watford rail crash earlier this month in which one woman died, according to information leaked to the Liberal Democrats. David Chidgey, the party's transport spokesman, said the Government could have averted the accident by upgrading the section of line. Railtrack and the Health and Safety Executive said Mr Chidgey's comments were speculative.

Tories choose banker

A senior non-executive director of N M Rothschild & Sons has been selected as the Conservative candidate for Home. Robert Guy defeated a former minister and several sitting MPs to win the relatively safe Tory seat, which has a majority of 12,268. Some 170 people applied for the seat, including Alan Clark, the former Defence Minister, Hartley Booth, who succeeded Margaret Thatcher as MP for Finchley, and Michael Stephen, MP for Shoreham.

SNP changes logo

Scottish Nationalists have voted to abandon their new logo, a thistle with a star at the heart, which many felt resembled a demented Bugs Bunny. Provided by a design company at a cost of £2,000, it was originally adopted in April at the party conference. Instead an internal ballot has decided to revive the classic "doodle dunnit" or dunnit cloth, a stylised thistle which was the party's emblem during their successes of the 1970s.

£5,000 for shorn hair

A man who hacked off his former girlfriend's waist-length blonde hair was ordered to pay her £5,000 compensation. David Rawlings, 42, an electrical engineer at the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston, Berkshire, was sentenced to 200 hours' community service by Winchester Crown Court. He admitted common assault on Hayley White, 24, a psychology student, who had left him after an 18-month relationship.

Parcelforce strike threat

Parcelforce staff may take national industrial action over the sacking of a worker who was caught on closed-circuit television throwing the plastic top of a cardboard tube across the factory floor. Two sorting centres have already been affected by a 24-hour stoppage over the incident. Stephen Fox, 24, of Bristol, was sacked after a disciplinary hearing for the throwing incident, smoking on duty and for a charge of wilfully delaying the mail.

Murder girl reward

An anonymous businessman has offered a reward for information leading to the arrest of the killer of Caroline Glachan, 14. He put up the four-figure sum after hearing the tearful plea for witnesses made by the girl's mother, Margaret Glachan. The girl had been her only child. Her body was found in the River Leven, near Dumbarton, on Sunday. Police said yesterday that there had been a poor response to the appeal for information.

BT complaint upheld

Complaints that a BT advert promoting its Friends and Family service was misleading have been upheld by the Independent Television Commission. The advert, featuring Bob Hoskins, led many viewers to believe that they could get an immediate 10 per cent discount off their bills. In fact, customer discounts started with the next bill so phone users had to wait up to three months for the reduction to take effect. The commission received 38 complaints.

Covent Garden blast

Tourists ran for cover after a fireball blew a manhole cover into the air in the pedestrianised Piazza in Covent Garden, central London. A pregnant woman was believed to be among six people needing hospital treatment. Witnesses said the cast-iron lid shot up more than 15ft propelled by an orange fireball. It is believed an electrical fault caused the blast. The Piazza was sealed off after the incident.

Jobs for the boys

Boys aged between 6 and 9 are paid an average of £1.70 a week for jobs around the home, compared with £1.60 a week for girls. However, the girls are the ultimate winners, receiving an average of £1.30 in gifts, while boys receive only £1.60 unearned income, according to a young savers survey by the Halifax Building Society. A spokesman said: "Most save more than they spend."

Teachers vote to strike in row over 'violent' boy of 10

BY DAVID CHARTER

TEACHERS at a junior school voted yesterday to strike after their governors twice readmitted a ten-year-old pupil expelled for violent behaviour.

Matthew Wilson was allowed back to Mantor Junior School in Mantor, Nottinghamshire, even though teachers claimed he turned up at the gates last term wielding a baseball bat. Governors yesterday described Matthew as a "bright and nice boy" and his mother, Pamela Cliffe, said he was just a "normal lad".

However, all seven of the nine teachers at the school in the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers voted to walk out, saying that

Matthew refused to obey instructions, was violent towards other pupils and had thrown things at staff, leaving them afraid for their own safety. The union said its members will not turn up next Tuesday if Matthew is there.

Bill Skelly, head teacher, first expelled Matthew in June after what the union described as "a year of chronically disruptive behaviour". Governors refused to back the decision. Matthew was back in class for less than a month before Mr Skelly banished him again for refusing to sit where he was told in assembly, picking on other children and running off during the day.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the union, said: "Despite receiving a

strong warning letter about his future conduct, the boy reappeared at the school gates during the afternoon break on July 5, behaving in a menacing fashion, wielding a baseball bat."

Ms Cliffe said yesterday: "I think it is pathetic. I don't think teachers should be able to pick and choose who they teach just because they can't control a normal lad like Matthew." She denied that her son had threatened teachers with a baseball bat.

Eileen Bennett, chairwoman of the school governors, dismissed claims that Matthew's behaviour was chronically disruptive as "utter rubbish". She said: "He is a challenge, but there are an awful lot of children who are a challenge."



Matthew: said by school governors to be a "bright and nice boy" and by his mother "a normal lad"

Mandelson agent cooked up travel expenses claim

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE man who helped Peter Mandelson, Labour's top spin doctor, to become an MP has been caught fiddling his expenses as a councillor.

Bernard Carr, Mr Mandelson's agent when he won his Hartlepool seat in the 1992 general election, claimed for a visit to London when he was already there on an expenses-paid trip as a contestant in a cookery competition.

Mr Carr's colleagues at Hartlepool council gave him a £150 advance to travel to the capital to attend a housing trust meeting. They did not know that he had stayed out after taking part in a *Daily Telegraph* contest to find the worst cook in Britain. When local papers publicised his third place with a turnip and fish soup with fishfinger croquettes, Moss Boddy, a fellow Labour councillor, queried his expenses claim.

The visit was investigated by John Walton, Hartlepool chief finance officer, who ruled that the claim was fraudulent. Mr Carr, 41, chairman of the Hartlepool Labour Party and the council's housing committee, has since repaid the money and agreed to refund a

similar amount for a previous trip to the Tudor Trust housing meeting in London was appropriate. This is a matter of opinion and in the view of the council officers it was not eligible. I agreed with their judgment."

Mr Carr, who is single and works full-time for his party, had been nominated for the "Baker's Cuisine" contest in the newspaper by his long-time friend Vicky Andrews. He attended the cookery final at Brown's Hotel on Friday, August 16 but his meeting with the housing group was not until the next Monday.

Mr Carr had told officials that he was attending the competition but claimed he had not stayed over in London. However, the investigation discovered that Mr Carr was at the Dolphin Hotel in London over the weekend.

Mr Walton told the council that the expenses were not justified. He said that the council's involvement with the Tudor Trust was tenuous.

Bryan Hanson, leader of the council, said the Labour group would be meeting Mr Carr to discuss the matter.



Carr: claim queried by Labour colleague

Police used CS spray on mother

POLICE used a CS spray to force a mother to let go of her ten-month-old daughter who was being taken into care, it was disclosed yesterday (Paul Wilkinson writes). An inquiry has been ordered.

Officers of the same force, Cleveland, have also been asked to explain why they used the spray on two children aged 13 and 14 who had barricaded themselves in a bedroom of a local authority home. None of those sprayed suffered lasting ill-effects.

Bob Fitts, the chairman of social services in Middlesbrough, where both incidents happened, said: "It seems that the sprays were not used as an instrument of last resort where an officer was in physical danger, but as a method of control, a 'quick-fix' solution, which is in total breach of the guidelines agreed by the Association of Chief Police Officers."

Barry Shaw, Chief Constable of Cleveland police, denied that the guidelines had been broken.

Since trials began 6 months ago, CS spray has been used by Cleveland police 115 times, the Metropolitan Police 68, Northumbria 43 and North Yorkshire 10.

Just the ticket as Oasis see sales rise without lead singer

BY PETER DUNN

AMERICAN fans of Oasis were underpinned by the absence of the lead singer Liam Gallagher at last night's opening concert of the band's US tour in Rosemont, Illinois. The promoters said that only a few ticket holders had taken up an offer of a refund, and sales had actually increased.

The singer stayed at his home in St

John's Wood, London, but denied the group was on the verge of splitting. He left the house briefly to buy a pint of milk at a local newsagent, and said: "You know the story; it's all in the papers. I've got to move house."

The tour was thrown into turmoil on Sunday when it was reported that the plane to Chicago 15 minutes before take-off. The 22-year-old star said he was returning to sort out "personal

problems" and finalise house-moving arrangements with his fiancée, the actress Patsy Kensit.

Andy Cizun, vice-president of the concert division of Jam Productions, and account manager for Oasis, said: "New sales are easily outstripping any returns. I find it very surprising. People just want to see the band."

Creation Records earlier issued a statement saying the singer wanted to

sort out a "personal matter" and would be joining the band later in the three-week tour. A spokesman said Gallagher was merely recovering from laryngitis. The band are also booked to play MTV's Video Music Awards in New York. MTV said yesterday they still expected him there. For the moment, the lead vocals are being taken by his brother Noel, the band's songwriter and guitarist.

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Queen of fights on child porn



Persistent abuse statutory cas

Outspoken crusader has won over her subjects but infuriated defenders of protocol and libertarians

Queen of Sweden fights on against child pornography

FROM DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT, IN STOCKHOLM

QUEEN SILVIA of Sweden defied her critics yesterday to address the world's first congress against the sexual exploitation of children, unperturbed about the furore she has raised by telling Swedish politicians to ban child pornography.

The Queen, whose emotional approach to the issue has infuriated constitutional experts while endearing her further to the people, insisted on taking the microphone for an unscheduled intervention at the Stockholm conference attended by 130 nations.

A mother of three, she has made the battle against child exploitation a personal crusade, embarrassing the Government of a country that allows its citizens the right to possess child pornography that would be outlawed in most of the civilised world.

Queen Silvia, who agreed to be patron of the five-day congress, was warmly cheered when she made an impromptu address after sitting through several hours of earnest speeches from diplomats promising to tackle the problem. "It is an important day for us," she told the representatives. "You have got an agenda of action in your hands. Please take it into your hearts. I am going to follow very closely what is going on here. I am very proud and happy that you have come."

Queen Silvia's first foray into the debate was at a summit on the rights of children held in Paris last November. Organised by Valerie-Anne Giscard d'Estaing, it was attended by 26 first ladies and several female members of royalty. A mood of tension and embarrassment filled the meeting as Queen Silvia described how she had watched sequences showing paedophiles committing serious sexual offences against children. Boris Yeltsin's wife was reported to have gazed down the table and Queen Noor of Jordan squirmed.

Undaunted, Queen Silvia



Mme Giscard d'Estaing organised a summit

took her campaign on to Swedish television in the summer, agreeing to an interview in which the usual platitudes about her children's progress were replaced by a strong attack on Sweden's record on pornography. Misty-eyed, she said watching the films had made her weep. "You cannot compare it to adult pornography," she told viewers. "It is torture of the worst kind. It was the worst thing I have ever seen."

Queen Silvia accused politicians of dragging their feet and said that they should be compelled to watch child pornography. She said the name and photograph of anyone who sexually abused a child should be published throughout Sweden. The public, who have backed children's charities campaigning for the laws to be tightened, were delighted, but champions of Sweden's liberal traditions were infuriated by her suggestion.

The Swedish press — which has refused to publish photographs of paedophiles in crime reports, claiming that their children's privacy would be damaged — was particularly stung and the journalists' union has led attacks on the

Queen. "The media has kicked her in the head," a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said. The union fears that investigative journalists could be hampered if the freedom to possess material is curtailed by the law.

Queen Silvia's remark about dragging feet was seen as especially injudicious as politicians have already begun to change the constitution, but according to the rules they have to wait for another general election and a vote by the new parliament before the change can be implemented, probably in 1999.

Stig Hadenius, a professor at Stockholm University and prominent political scientist, said: "Almost 99 per cent of the public are against child pornography so it is very easy for her. But as a queen she should be silent because it is a very complex legal question."

The Royal Palace in Stockholm said yesterday: "As with all royalty, when they talk about something that is important to themselves, they are prepared for criticism. I don't think she was surprised. From the beginning, it has been a very personal reaction as a mother."

Per Erik Astrom of Swedish Save The Children said: "If you see that type of film, the natural reaction is to become angry. She was very upset. We are talking about strong sadistic material."

It has been illegal to make and distribute child pornography in Sweden since 1980. Films of obscene acts between humans and animals can still be freely bought.

The Swedes have been overwhelmed by a sudden late surge in attendance at the conference. With 1,500 delegates and journalists arriving, the shadow of the Belgian paedophilia scandal hangs over the congress hall.

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said: "The recent abominable events in Belgium have shaken the world and deeply shocked people."

Timothy Kirkhope, a junior Home Office Minister, was applauded at the conference as he called for more countries to follow Britain's example and be prepared to extradite their own nationals suspected of sex crimes against children in developing countries.

Sri Lanka, stung by estimates that 30,000 child prostitutes were working in the country, urged Western governments to send it names of known sex tourists so they could be stopped. But children's charities accused it of trying to offload its share of the blame to protect its tourist trade, instead of promising to close down the brothels.



Never lost for words: the common-born Queen Silvia speaks several languages and her intelligence has won wide respect even among Sweden's republicans

The royal bride whose wisdom saved monarchy

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

SHE is regarded by many as the saviour of Swedish monarchy. Queen Silvia has rarely put a foot wrong since marrying King Carl Gustaf XVI in 1976. They first met four years earlier when she was chief hostess for the Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, and he was a bachelor prince with an unfair reputation for being slow-witted.

The new Queen soon won plaudits, even among republicans, as a dignified and intelligent escort. Every New Year, the royal couple appear on television introducing an hour of film clips showing their state visits and official duties. The King endearingly forgets names and places, and she gently corrects him. After one broadcast, the Queen's suddenly youthful appearance led to uncorroborated reports that she had received a facelift.

Queen Silvia, now 52, is the common-born daughter of a German businessman. Her dark beauty is attributed to her Brazilian mother — she spent part of her childhood in Sao Paulo. As an interpreter, she learnt seven languages, including sign.

The royal couple have three children, the Crown Princess Victoria, Carl Philip, and Madeleine. Two years ago there were puzzling allegations about a residential

course where Carl Philip, then 15, was being prepared for confirmation into the Lutheran Church.

A Swedish newspaper reported that, during a confidence-building game known as "the washing line" — in which teams were encouraged to remove their clothing and tie it into a long rope — a number of over-excited participants stripped naked and licked jam off each other.

The Queen was said to have asked psychiatrists whether her shy son could have been traumatised. The Royal Family issued an ambiguous statement that "obviously anything that causes distress to children must be stopped".

The King has rarely intervened in politics, although he has annoyed Sweden's traditional rival, Norway, by attacking their fishing policies on environmental grounds.

The Swedish Royal Family has had no real power since the First World War, although it has remained a symbol of the nation, particularly praised for preserving unity during the Second World War. Its last political functions involving the forming of governments were given to the Speaker of Parliament in 1970. The succession passes to the first-born child regardless of sex, making Victoria, 19, the heir.



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against
Commercial
Sexual
Exploitation
of Children**

Stockholm, Sweden
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The recent Belgian paedophile scandal has led to a surge in attendance at the congress in Stockholm

Persistent abusers face statutory castration

BY GILES WHITTALL IN LOS ANGELES AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CHILD molesters who reoffend face mandatory castration under a Bill expected to become law this week in California. While certain to face challenges in court, the law is also likely to be imitated elsewhere as politicians respond to mounting public indignation over repeat sex offenders.

Under the law, anyone convicted twice of sexually abusing a child will have to choose between surgical castration or periodic injections of a drug proven to inhibit sex drive. Pete Wilson, Governor of California, who has made draconian new punishments a centrepiece of his administration, said that he hoped the law would "help in the difficult struggle to control the deviant behaviour of those who stalk our young".

Convicted child molesters routinely reoffend almost immediately on being released from prison, one of the Bill's sponsors claimed yesterday. Bill Hoge, an assemblyman from Pasadena, compared the problem and his solution to dealing with disease.

"If you have smallpox in the country or some other kind of life-threatening epidemic disease, the law is clear on the fact that you can't refuse treatment," he told *The New York Times*.

Offenders would receive regular shots of Depo-Provera, a drug produced by the Upjohn pharmaceutical company that lowered testosterone levels and thus sex

A Briton has been arrested in Albania and charged with sexually abusing two young boys. The 34-year-old man, said to be from Wiltshire, was arrested on Sunday in a hotel in the Adriatic resort of Durres, west of Tirana. He has denied the charges. Adnan Xhejli, a state prosecutor, said yesterday that the divorced man had befriended the boys, aged under 10, because they reminded him of his own children, who live with his former wife in London. The British Embassy in Tirana said it had sent an official to talk to the arrested Briton, who is being held in jail. He faces a maximum sentence of five years if convicted.

drive in men. It had already been used successfully in Sweden and Germany. Mr Hoge said.

Civil rights groups and medical experts alike have given notice that they would oppose the law as unconstitutional and simplistic. "It's not enough just to say, 'Let's lock 'em up and castrate the bastards', however horrible their misdeeds," Fred Berlin of Johns Hopkins University said.

"Some people you just lock up. Some people you lock up and treat. Some people you treat. It's complicated."

Governor Wilson is unlikely to be discouraged. Tapping

into a vein of public outrage over crime, he has already staked his political future on such unpopular — and often unenforceable — initiatives as the "three strikes and you're out" law, which requires life sentences for repeat offenders of any kind, and Proposition 187, which would deny state education and healthcare to illegal immigrants.

A 75-year-old Australian accused of 850 child sex crimes was remanded in custody by a Brisbane court yesterday. The charges against the man, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, cover a period from the 1960s to the 1980s. Queensland police said further charges were expected against the man, who is also accused of sex offences overseas.

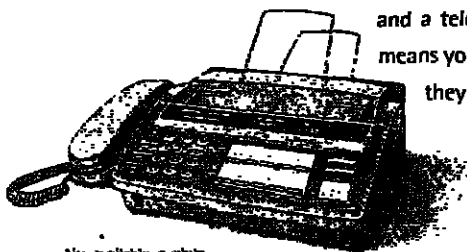
Meanwhile a child sex abuse trial in Germany entered its 234th day yesterday. In three linked court cases in Mainz, 24 adults from two extended families in nearby Worms are variously charged with raping or sadistically torturing children of the two families, or hiring them out for others to abuse. Many acts are alleged to have been filmed. Sixteen children are alleged to have been abused in 300 instances.

The first case began in November 1994 and the others in April 1995, and all the accused have remained silent. The difficulties of taking evidence from children are prompting the German authorities to consider changes in the law.

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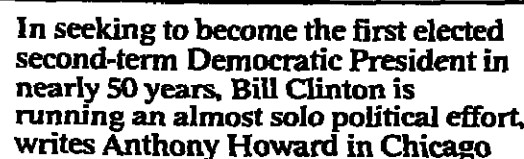
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As Al Gore, the Vice-President, has scurried about in Chicago, no doubt hoping to build up support for heading the ticket in four years' time, the main focus has not been on all the schmaltzy mood music



But there is a price that had to be paid and the White House no doubt cheerfully foresaw that, in organising this rival attraction. The Democratic Party is now visibly a one-man band with everything else subsumed to the need to get Mr Clinton re-elected in November.

Even to his supporters, he is the brave little Dutch boy with his

It is not, of course, how Harry Truman played it in 1948. But then, as the product of a big-city machine, he was a party man in a sense that Mr. Clinton, the loner, has never been. There have been just a few signs in the past day or two of a readiness to criticize the current Republican legislative record; but


The irony is that the man who came to office vowing to break "the gridlock" on Capitol Hill is now caught in the trap of appearing to be the principal agent likely to perpetuate it. The President's new strategist — the politically ambidextrous Dick Morris — may proclaim his belief that Mr Clinton can win back control of both the House and the Senate next November, but he is about the only person defiantly to make such a prediction.

That is not an accusation that is likely to be heard here from the podium. But the subterranean mutterings are audible and it will take more to smother them than the gallant effort by Richard Gephardt (Mr Gingrich's Democratic rival) to pretend that the welfare split

Nevertheless, the melancholy record of only two presidential election victories in the past 28 years cannot be disregarded. Even the most disenchanted delegates know that for the moment Mr Clinion looks like the Democrats' last best hope of ensuring their future. This is why, as though with a defeated joy, they acquiesce in his extraordinary dominance over what at other times has been a notoriously fractious party.

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN CHICAGO

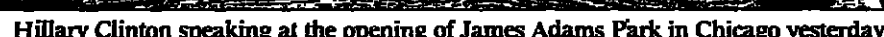
Mr. Reeve's speech overran by 15 minutes, but not one of the television networks cut away. As he finished, the hall darkened and President Clinton appeared live on three huge screens from a rally in Toledo, Ohio, where his campaign train had stopped for the night.



Reeve: his speech moved the delegates to tears



Mr Clinton, continuing his four-day train journey to Chicago, was expected to announce in Michigan a \$2.5 billion (£1.6 billion) programme to attack illiteracy.



FROM TOM RHODES ON BOARD THE 21ST-CENTURY EXPRESS

And it disguises the marriage of politics and presidency in the 1990s as well as the logistical agony of transporting the American leader through areas known as hotbeds for militia groups. Mr Truman, one assumes, had never heard of either the pipe or fertiliser bomb.

The enjoyment this Presi-

Women buying sodas from the trackside ice-cream parlour never saw the Swat teams near the signal boxes. "I never thought we'd get this close to the President," said one. "It's just like those old town-hall meetings."

CHICAGO NOTEBOOK

Most astonishing of all, the 16-minute film that will introduce Mr Clinton before his big speech tomorrow night actually lavishes praise on Mr Dole for his service to the country. This only proves that Mr Clinton is a very

The question has been emphatically answered: Mrs Clinton is everywhere. On Monday she delivered no less than seven "fringe" speeches in eight hours, and was last night addressing not only the convention but her biggest television audience yet. She speaks boldly, defiantly and unapologetically.

While Elizabeth Dole refers to her husband as "Bob" and talks glowingly of the

Another female Clinton is noticeably raising her public profile this week. Chelsea, now 16, is travelling on her father's train, appearing beside him at every stop, and is expected to be seated prominently in the hall when he speaks tomorrow night. *The New York Times* reported that she had actually asked to speak, but that was quickly ruled out. She is now a tremendous advertisement for her parents.

MARTIN FLETCHER

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

Mrs. Kabot photographed guests for 45 minutes, starting at 8pm — about the time the aircraft came down. In the sky, in one photograph of a group, is a long cylindrical object, flying roughly horizontally, with a flame at one end. "I do not know what it is," Mrs.

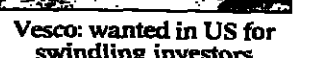
Investigators believe a bomb ripped the TWA jet in two, but have not discounted the possibility that it was blown out of the sky by a missile. PETN, the high-explosive detected on wreckage, is found in both plastic explosives and missiles.

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

light the fire for \$1 an hour. About 6,000 lightning strikes were blamed for 43 fires in Oregon and Nevada. In one act of arson, a 15-year-old youth admitted to starting the fire that closed the highway.

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

The bizarre case also involves the nephews of President Castro and Richard Nixon, the former American President. Señor Castro's nephew is director of the state-owned research company that was defrauded, while Donald Nixon, who was briefly detained in Cuba and later



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French villagers cheer farmers on mad cow march

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A HERD of French cows, flanked by police motorcycle outriders, plodded along the slow lane of a busy highway towards Paris yesterday in the latest, and maddest, protest at the dire effects of mad cow disease on the French beef industry.

The cattle and their owners set off from the south of Poitiers on August 11 to draw attention to plunging beef prices, and as they approach the end of their 220-mile odyssey, they have caught the imagination of the public and brought new pressure to bear on the French Government.

"We want to see President Chirac, and we will," declared Jacques Tourenne as he rounded up his cows on a football field near Rambouillet, 30 miles south of Paris, for the morning cattle-drive.

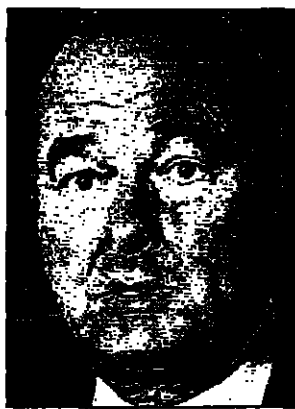
The herd and herdersmen, originating in one of the poorest agricultural regions of France, will arrive in the capital on Saturday when the animals will be assembled on the Champ de Mars, which has not seen grazing cattle since the siege of Paris in 1870.

What began as a quixotic protest by a handful of farmers from the Vienne region has gradually swollen to 36 cows and more than 80 people.

Tens of six cows at a time take it in turn to amble along the farm track, behind a tractor with a placard reading: "We are marching to avoid annihilation", while the rest of the herd follows in trailers.

Passing through small towns and villages along the way, they are greeted by the ringing of church bells and spontaneous offers of food and money from sympathetic locals.

Beef consumption in France has dropped by a third since



Chirac expected to meet the protesters

the start of the mad-cow crisis in March, and the protesters say they face financial ruin unless the Government and the European Union steps in with massive increased compensation and a fixed price for beef.

The protest now occupies a regular slot on the evening news and the progress of the "Mad Cow March" is relayed daily by national newspapers. Politically and otherwise, a prolonged occupation of the Champ de Mars, in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower, could prove extremely messy.

Jacques Chirac has often emphasised his roots in the cattle-producing region of the Corrèze and one senior Elysée official said President Chirac would probably agree to meet a delegation of the marchers at the weekend.

The troop headed north along the four-lane N10 highway yesterday at a steady 2 mph, causing huge tailbacks but prompting honks of support from lorries passing in the opposite direction.

Roland Fontaneau said he did not regret giving up his summer holiday to walk to

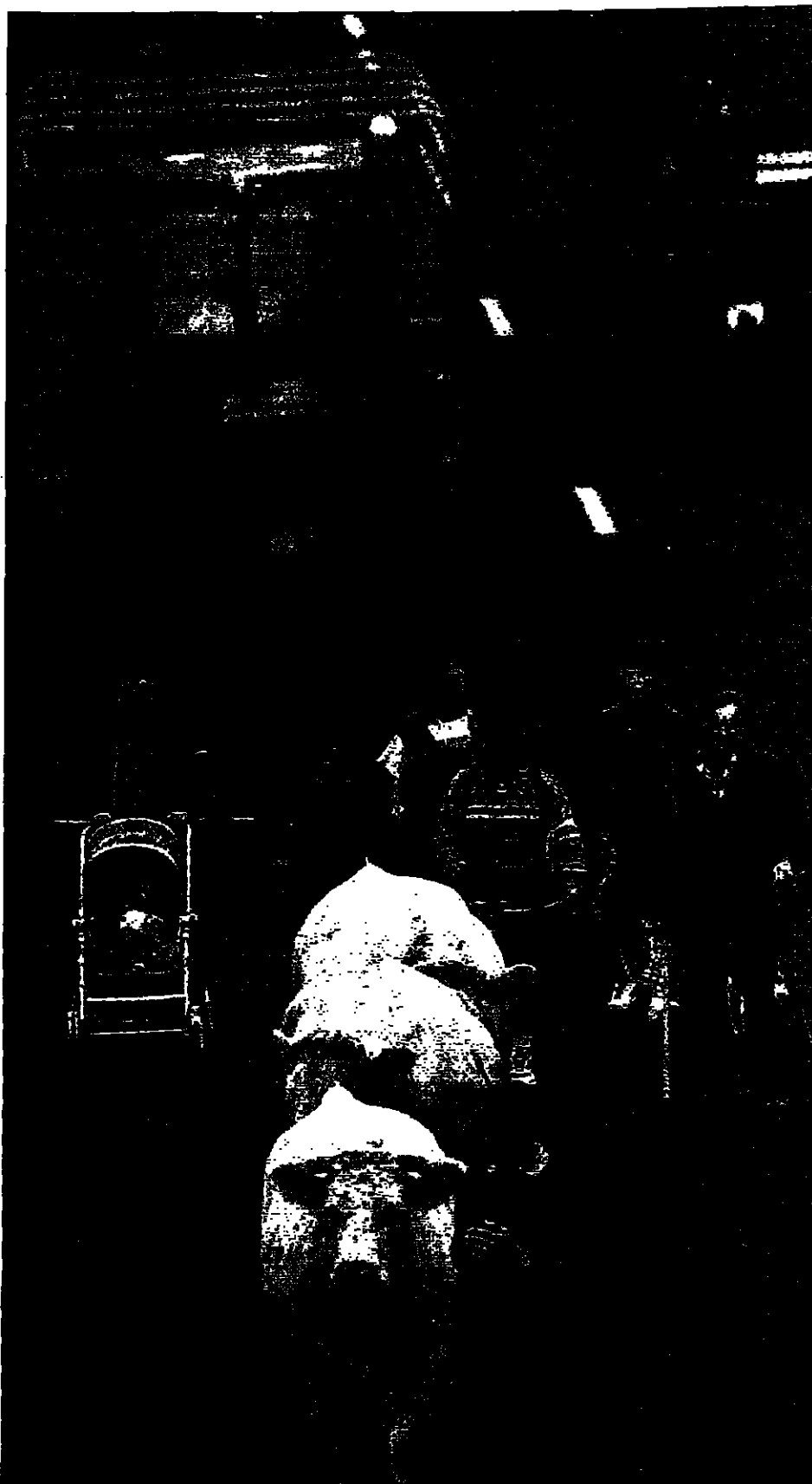
Paris. "This was the best way we could think of to show how serious things have got," he said.

Like many French farmers, he holds Britain to blame for the health scare that has undermined his livelihood, but he also suspects a more sinister conspiracy. "I think the United States put pressure on Britain to destabilise the European beef market so that American suppliers could monopolise the market," he said.

At night the walkers sleep on straw in the cattle trailers or accept whatever local hospitality is offered. "It's amazing how much help we've had," M Fontaneau remarked, as he whacked the ample rump of Marguerite, a Limousin heifer and the self-appointed herder. The walkers say that Marguerite has become wholly committed to the protest, often refusing to get back into the trailer at the end of her stint on the road.

Herding cows on a dual carriageway is technically illegal, yet the police have not only allowed the march to continue but have provided a motorcycle escort. They have warned the herdersmen, however, that as traffic becomes heavier on the approach to the capital, the cows will have to travel on the trailers for some stretches and avoid rushhours.

After their strenuous efforts, the cows will not end up at the Rungis foodmarket outside Paris, but will be returned to the Vienne, leaner and a good deal fitter. "Sometimes we bathe their feet because the road makes them hot," said Jean Grolleau, owner of Marguerite, but otherwise the cows appeared to be enjoying their forced march.



Part of the Limousin herd being driven to Paris in a protest against falling beef prices

Italian Cabinet struggles to hold fast to Maastricht

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE rift in the Italian Cabinet over whether Italy will be able to meet the Maastricht targets for monetary union worsened yesterday despite attempts by senior ministers to smooth over the dispute.

The Italian consensus on the single currency cracked last weekend when Cesare Romiti, the head of Fiat, questioned the wisdom of trying to meet the Maastricht criteria, saying that job creation should come first. Walter Veltroni, the Deputy Prime Minister, then agreed that, because of recession on the Continent, European Union states should "sit round a table and review the criteria and the schedule for monetary union. The parameters were too severe," he told *Corriere della Sera*.

Yesterday Professor Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, appeared to contradict his deputy, saying that Italy "cannot possibly ask for a review of the Maastricht criteria". This would give the wrong signal to the markets, which were looking to the Italian draft 1997 budget to provide "the kind of message that will enable interest rates to come down".

Signor Prodi and Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Treasury and Budget Minister, have designed the 1997 budget, which includes far-reaching spending cuts, to help Italy to meet the Maastricht criteria on inflation and the public deficit. Lamberto Dini, the Foreign Minister, appeared on the main television evening news to assure Italians that "no one is thinking of revising the parameters. That would be a great mistake".

There was room for manoeuvre, however, over the timing of monetary union. Signor Dini said, with EU leaders deciding in 1998 how many countries should join the single currency in the first phase. His remarks were given first place in the news

bulletin and treated as a solemn declaration.

Behind the tensions, which mark the end of the Prodi Government's first 100-day "honeymoon" (and the end of the summer break), lies the fact that Italy has no hope of qualifying in time and would secretly welcome a delay.

Under the Maastricht criteria, for example, the budget deficit must be no greater than 3 per cent of gross domestic product. The Italian deficit was 10 per cent of GDP three years ago; this has been cut to 6 per cent this year, and the Government's aim is to reduce it to 4.5 per cent next year. But Signor Prodi has given a warning that this will require sacrifices and will still leave Italy with a long way to go.

"Europe" has until now been an article of faith for Italy's industrialists and politicians. But *La Repubblica* published yesterday a chart which it said cruelly exposed Italy's pretensions. The chart showed that, while Germany would probably meet 100 per cent of the Maastricht targets and France nearly 100 per cent, Italy would reach only 2 per cent, just ahead of Portugal and Greece which would meet none.

Britain would meet 22 per cent of the requirements, behind Finland (36 per cent), Denmark (50), Ireland (60), The Netherlands (76), and Belgium and Austria (both 79 per cent).

Signor Veltroni said there was no prospect of Italy "breaking away from Maastricht unilaterally", and any revision of the targets had to be Europe-wide.

Silvio Berlusconi, leader of the centre-right opposition, said the centre-left Government had "come rather late" to the realisation that the criteria were too strict, an argument he had advanced when Prime Minister in 1994.

Plea by sex change man to be father

Brussels: The European Court of Human Rights yesterday began hearing a complaint by a British transsexual man — born a woman — who was refused the right to be recognised as the legal father of his woman companion's child (Charles Bremner writes).

The man, identified in court as Mr X, has been fighting for recognition since the child was born in 1992. He has lived with the mother since 1979 and the child was conceived through artificial insemination by donated sperm.

The Ministry of Health ruled that, while the child could bear Mr X's name, only a biological man could be legally registered as the child's father.

The case, in which Mr X is charging the British Government with breaching the article of the European Human Rights on privacy, goes to the heart of the campaign by transsexuals to remove barriers which they say deprive them of a normal life.

Nobel laureate describes his 15 years of madness

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

DISCLOSING he had once lived through "15 years of madness" brought on by the nature and strain of his job, the Nobel laureate John Nash said here yesterday that there is a conspicuous link between mathematical genius and mental disorder.

In a provocative paper delivered at the 10th World Congress of Psychiatry, Professor Nash, who shared the 1994 Nobel Prize for Economics for his research on game theory, spoke of the schizophrenia from which he suffered between 1959 and 1974.

"The delirium was like a dream from which I seemed never to awake," he said. The 68-year-old American scientist's illness began soon after the magazine *Fortune* had fêted him as the "most promising young mathematician in the world".

Steepled in his research on game theory, Professor Nash started to believe "first, that the staff at my university, the Massa-

chusetts Institute of Technology, and later all of Boston, was behaving very strangely towards him. "I started to see crypto-communists," he said. His condition deteriorated so much that his wife divorced him, though she was later to return to his side. "I started to think I was a man of great religious importance, and to hear voices all the time." Although the scientist was admitted to hospital intermittently for his condition, his mathematical output went from strength to strength.

Professor Nash said: "I would not dare to say that there is a direct relation between mathematics and madness, but there is no doubt that great mathematicians suffer from manic characteristics."

He cited several examples of cases like his own: Georg Cantor, who founded set theory and the concept of transfinite numbers; Kurt Gödel, whose eponymous

Proof has become a hallmark of 20th-century mathematics; and Alan Turing, a pioneer in computer theory.

The professor put forward the thesis that rationality often interferes with the "ultra-logical thinking" necessary for mathematics.

Leading article, page 13



Nash: 'maths genius and madness linked'

Lebed under attack on a broad front

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

ALEKSANDR LEBED, the Russian national security chief, came under intense attack yesterday from a broad array of political opponents seeking to unravel his Chechnya peace deal.

In the first sign of a concerted campaign to undermine his mission, the pro-Moscow Chechen leadership and the Communist-led opposition accused him of acting without authority and of jeopardising Russia's constitution and territorial sovereignty.

The harshest criticism came from Doku Zavgayev, the Kremlin-backed President of Chechnya, whose Government was all but wiped out in the rebel offensive on August 6. He accused General Lebed of "surrendering Grozny to the separatists", of holding "secret backstage talks with the rebels", and of threatening to plunge the entire Caucasus into civil war.

Although his comments were hardly surprising, given that his authority was stripped

away by the Russian-Chechen truce signed last week, he was not alone in his condemnation. "Covering himself with the authority of the Russian President, Lebed is playing dangerous games with Chechnya's sovereignty, which is totally unacceptable," said Sergei Baburin, the nationalist Deputy Speaker of the Russian parliament. He also accused the former army officer of masterminding a "political crime".

Valentin Kuptsov, deputy head of the Communist Party, said the main opposition parties in parliament would demand explanations this week for General Lebed's controversial mission. The left-nationalist alliance wants to know exactly what his powers are and why President Yeltsin is refusing to meet him.

Firefighters overpowered a man who threatened to set himself on fire to keep his son from being drafted into Russia's beleaguered army. (AP)



A father carries his child to an ambulance in Crete

400 sick on cruise ship

FOUR Britons were reported ill with food poisoning on an Italian-owned cruise liner at anchor off the port of Heraklion, Crete (writes John Carr in Athens). A British consular official said they were being treated on board and their condition was "not serious".

The 13 other British passengers on board the *Costa Riviera* had no symptoms. But about 400 of the 1,200 passengers — the majority Italian — fell ill with what a doctor diagnosed as acute gastro-enteritis. Two passengers were taken to hospital in Heraklion.

The governor of the Crete province, Yannis Garyfalakis, said yesterday: "I believe that the situation is under control.

The cases are not that serious and our doctors are treating them on the boat with medical supplies rushed in by local hospitals." However, coast-guard officials in Heraklion said up to 30 people could be taken to hospital for further treatment.

The ship, which started its voyage at Venice, has now been confined to Heraklion harbour until tomorrow to allow food and water samples to be taken, a port official said.

The ship, which flies a Liberian flag, is owned by Costa Grociere in Genoa, Italy, and operated by a Greek company. It was on a cruise to Crete and other Greek islands.

Poland welcomes Germans as Nato links grow

BRITISH tanks will soon move into Poland to mark the 57th anniversary of the outbreak of war. It will be the first time British armour has crossed Nato's eastern frontier.

The heavy progress of the 7th Armoured Brigade, led by Brigadier David Montgomery, over the autobahn and rail network may not be an enchanting prospect for Germans returning from holiday, but for the Poles it is a magical moment. The decision to exercise on former Warsaw Pact training grounds, rather than the traditional sites on the north German plains, is a sign that the practical problems of Polish entry to Nato are being tackled with more energy than its admission to the European Union.

Even Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, the Euro-enthusiast Prime Minister, now accepts that "we may become a member of Nato a year or two earlier" than the EU. The Polish offer of a training ground to the British shows how far Warsaw's co-operation with Nato is going beyond the measures provided for under the Partnership for Peace programme. At a policy level, the "Weimar triangle" of Poland, France and Germany deals with strategic questions, but in practical terms the most important alignment is between Poland, Germany and Denmark. Defence ministers from those three countries, which share a Baltic coastline, exchange very detailed and confidential military information, including confidential data.

There are now twinned units, joint units (such as the Polish-Nordic brigade in Bosnia-Herzegovina) and

British tanks are heading towards Poland in exercises marking the 57th anniversary of the start of the Second World War, as the former Warsaw Pact member edges closer to joining Nato, writes Roger Boyes

some 12 shared manoeuvres are scheduled for this year. German, Danish and Polish minesweepers were patrolling the Baltic earlier this month. Land exercises will also be held next month with Polish and German pilots providing air support.

The British are thus catching up with a more natural geopolitical constellation. The older Polish officers, after all, were trained to attack Germany and Denmark rather than Britain. Colonel Marian Kowalewski, who runs the International Security Department of the Ministry of Defence, says that he knows the Danish islands "like the back of my hand" because in Communist days he was an officer in the 7th Assault Division, trained to invade Denmark on behalf of the Warsaw Pact.

The triangular relationship between Denmark, Poland and Germany helps to water down resentments dating from the Second World War. Danish officers recall that when German detachments entered Denmark for exercises in the 1960s, they were screamed at by demonstrators. Since September 1994, German tank units have been active in Poland and, because of the involvement of a well-mannered, sometimes even friendly, reception.

The British are regarded more warmly by Polish officers, even if the contacts are not as intense as with the Germans.

"There is a mutual respect, not only because of the Second World War but also because of Britain's proven combat readiness in the Falklands, the Gulf and in Bosnia," a senior Polish officer said.

Poland's top brass, gathered at the Bydgoszcz air fair last weekend, gave

a notably warmer reception to British Harrier jets, which landed with precision in front of the VIP podium, than to other foreign aircraft on display. The American Hornet, the French Mirage 2000-5 and the Russian MiG29 competed for attention.

There is some wariness in Poland that Nato enlargement is being supported by Western states partly for commercial gain or domestic political advantage. The American offer of F16 fighters, essentially without payment, and even last month's decision by Washington to grant \$60 million (£38 million) of military aid to the Poles, Hungarians, Czechs and Slovenes is seen in the context of the American election campaign; the ethnic Polish vote counts for a great deal.

"We will examine the strength and weaknesses of each aircraft and will choose the most up-to-date and most affordable," President Kwasniewski said at the air show. The Polish Air Force is pressing for a quick decision.

The closer the co-operation becomes, the more obvious are the differences in military sophistication. Poland spends only £51 per head on defence, compared with £118 in Germany. Tank technology in Germany is moving on while the Poles are lagging behind and Western navy command systems are a generation ahead of Polish technology. The computerisation of Nato has left the former Warsaw Pact countries standing, making a nonsense of the "inter-operability" which is the precondition for Polish entry to Nato.



German troops invade Poland in 1939. Now the two countries are engaged in close military co-operation

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Palestinian building bulldozed by Israelis

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

WHILE most Arab residents were still sleeping yesterday, Israeli police hoisted a bulldozer over the walls of Jerusalem's Old City and demolished a centre for handicapped and elderly Palestinians.

The demolition inside the Muslim quarter was one of two actions during the day that signalled the start of a tougher policy against the Palestinians by the right-wing Government of the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

The second came only a few hours after the demolition, when the Government confirmed it had approved the expansion of a Jewish settlement in the West Bank.

Palestinians immediately called a two-hour strike over the demolition of the incomplete building, which the Jerusalem municipal authorities declared was being constructed without a permit. Diplomats and reporters gathered to look at the ruins, watched by Israeli soldiers standing on the Old City's ramparts.

The Jerusalem municipality said there was no reason for the Israelis to apologise. "The building destroyed in the Old City was unoccupied. It was destroyed because it was built without a permit."

But Palestinian leaders said the

demolition meant Israel was no longer interested in peacemaking. "This is a war that has been declared on us. This building was intended to serve Palestinians in the Old City and posed no threat," said Ahmed Hashem Zighayer, a Palestinian legislative council member.

Israeli police countered that the building was being constructed with funds from the Palestinian Authority for use as a social club. Under the authority is forbidden to operate inside Jerusalem.

Hayel Sandouka, president of the charity that helped to build the centre, denied this, saying funds had come from private sources, including churches and non-government organisations in Sweden and Canada. He said the building was part of a project that included a handicapped centre, a home for the elderly and a kindergarten.

Some Palestinians believe its destruction was part of a drive by Israel to push them out of the Holy City. Anger was still growing when the Israeli Government confirmed it had approved the construction of a new neighbourhood at a Jewish settlement on the West Bank.

Israel's Defence Ministry said a Government was simply lifting a

freeze on the building plan for Kiryat Sefer, which had been approved by the previous Government. The community of Kiryat Sefer is west of Ramallah, a Palestinian city on the West Bank.

Jewish settlements are a sensitive issue because of Palestinian demands to establish an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But even Israeli peace activists said yesterday that there had been building activity round Kiryat Sefer for some years and it was one of the Jewish communities Israel intended to retain in any agreement.

Palestinians counted a pledge by Israel's Government to ease the closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip as the only positive development yesterday. The promise came from Dan Meridor, the Finance Minister, after a meeting with Maher al-Masri, the Palestinian Trade Minister.

The ban was imposed in March after a wave of suicide bombings by Islamic militants. It prevents tens of thousands of Palestinian workers from entering Israel.

Last week United Nations officials said that, if the closure continued for much longer, it would lead to the Palestinian Authority's financial collapse.



Israeli police workers complete the community centre's demolition

Municipal polls in Bosnia delayed

FROM REUTERS IN SARAJEVO

THE American diplomat in charge of elections in Bosnia yesterday postponed voting for municipal assemblies, citing alleged irregularities in Serb voter registrations.

Robert Frowick, head of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's mission in Bosnia, said he had decided to delay the September 14 municipal polls because they were "not feasible". He said voting would be rescheduled to April or May.

The organisation is charged with supervising the polls under the Dayton peace deal. But Mr Frowick said voting would be held on September 14 for cantonal assemblies, separate Muslim-Croat and Serb parliaments, a national House of Representatives and a three-man presidency.

His decision will affect the Nato-led peace mission in Bosnia whose mandate is due to end on December 30, but will now have to be strong enough to provide security for the delayed elections.

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMESTOUJOURS
ST TROPEZ

The fall and rise of the celebrity holiday camp, in the Magazine

PLUS

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Apartheid killer seeks amnesty

FROM REUTERS IN PRETORIA

A FORMER South African police colonel was yesterday convicted of six murders and 83 other crimes in the first trial of apartheid-era "death squads".

Eugene de Kock faces life sentences on each murder charge, but could avoid jail if Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission grants his request for amnesty in exchange for testimony against former colleagues. South Africa abolished the death penalty in June 1995.

On Monday at the Pretoria Supreme Court, Judge Willem van der Merwe convicted de Kock of five murders and yesterday found him guilty of blowing up a black activist as well as the attempted murder of his former hit-squad chief.

The judge further convicted de Kock of 66 fraud charges and 17 others, including attempted murder, conspiracy to murder and illegal possession of arms and explosives. The crimes involved massacres and random killings, attacks on township hostels and trains, car bombings, torture, beatings and vendettas against fellow police.

De Kock, who has admitted he was the "most effective assassin" under white rule, returns to court on September 16, when his lawyers are to begin their argument in mitigation of sentence.

Judge van der Merwe said de Kock — dubbed "Prime Evil" by his colleagues — tried to kill his predecessor Dirk Coetzee, commander of a covert hit-squad unit based at Vlakplaas farm near Pretoria.

Coetzee, who has claimed responsibility for several political assassinations ordered by apartheid chiefs, spoke publicly in 1989 about the death squads and became a target of the unit he had led until 1985.

De Kock and others sent a package with tapes, headphones and explosives to an address in Zambia where Coetzee, who had meanwhile joined the African National Congress, was supposed to fetch it.

But the post office sent the parcel to Bheki Mlangeni, an ANC lawyer and death squad investigator, who was given as the sender. Mlangeni was killed by the explosives, for which de Kock was convicted of culpable homicide.

Cambodia rebel split fuels fears for Briton

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

THERE is growing concern about the fate of Christopher Howes, the British mine-clearing expert being held hostage by the Khmer Rouge, after the split in the Cambodian guerrilla group.

Mr Howes was kidnapped, along with his interpreter, on March 26 near the Angkor Wat temple complex, and is believed to be held at Anlong Veng, the northern headquarters of the Khmer Rouge.

Two senior British police officers are at Siem Reap, near Angkor Wat, to analyse field reports on Mr Howes. Diplomats here say that Cambodian forces in the area are optimistic that Mr Howes is still alive. "There is no real evidence one way or another," said a source, "but it is a good sign that there are no rumours of his death."

Mr Howes's kidnappers had given him a chance to leave to seek a ransom for the men he was leading, but the former British Army NCO refused to leave his men.

He was taken to Anlong Veng, the base of Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge leader rumoured to have died recently. Earlier this month Pol Pot's right-hand man, Ieng Sary, and some generals defected. They are now in negotiation with the Cambodian government about giving up the armed struggle. There have been reports that their action has stirred "confusion" in Anlong Veng, and it is unclear how the developing situation will affect Mr Howes and an

In 1994, two Britons and an Australian girlfriend of one of the men, who were on holiday, were kidnapped and then killed by the Khmer Rouge.

Mother Teresa better

Calcutta: Mother Teresa's health improved significantly on her 86th birthday yesterday, as greetings arrived from around the world. Doctors said they were increasingly confident she would survive her battle against malaria and heart trouble. At one stage she was taken off respiratory support for six hours.

Speaking for the first time since her illness, she said yesterday: "I want to go home. I am anxious who is going to pay the hospital bill." (Reuters)

Rwandan return

Butare, Rwanda: The final Rwandan refugee camp in Burundi closed as the last of 6,000 refugees left for Rwanda, said a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. (Reuters)

Jakarta hunt

Jakarta: Indonesian authorities have summoned five more people for questioning in subversion cases connected with last month's rioting in Jakarta, the Antara news agency reported. (AFP)

Strike deadlock

Harare: Thousands of state employees continued their strikes as Zimbabwe's Government refused to negotiate with sacked union officials over pay claims ranging up to 100 per cent. (AFP)

In the cage

Perth: Denham Peiris, 32, who dyed cheap parrots and passed them off as rare and costly specimens, has been jailed. He hatched the scam to take revenge on a pet shop that sacked him for theft. (AP)

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Warehouse: still looking good at 20

Iain R. Webb reports on the high street chain that continues to hold catwalk junkies in its thrall



Deirdre McGuire



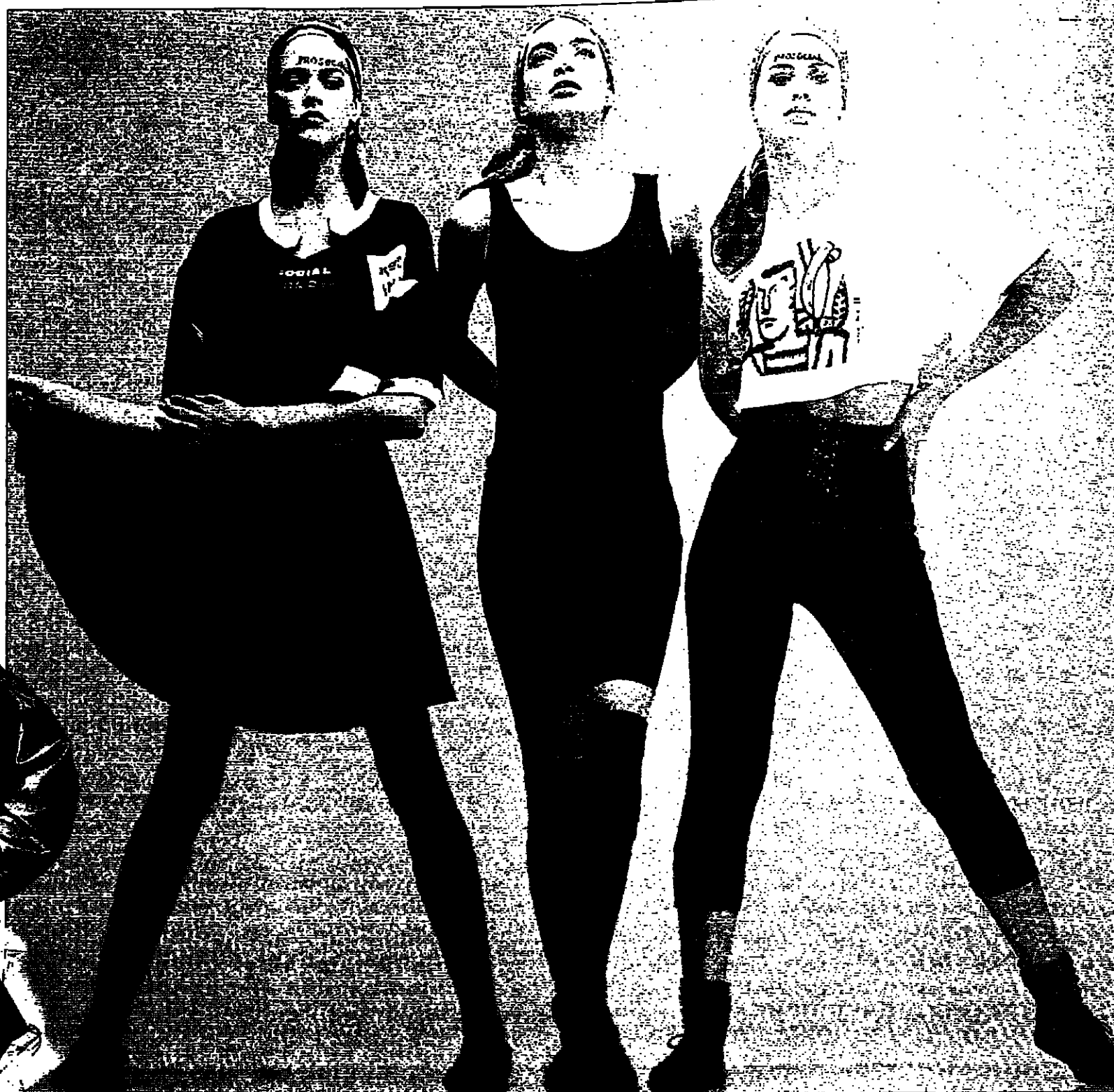
Mandy Smith: "The clothes had a cancan girl feeling"



Lindsay Thurloe



Christy Turlington: cover girl for the ByMail catalogue



Caroline Baker, now *You* fashion editor, says: "I was known as queen of styling. I used to pile all the bits on — jewellery, over-the-knee socks, the lot"



Naomi Campbell: before she became a household name



David Simms: now the ultra-hip fashion photographer

Next month the Warehouse high street chain celebrates 20 years in business. The first store opened in Argyle Street in London's West End in 1976 and was called Warehouse Utility Clothing Co. It was the

brainchild of Jeff Banks, the designer and, more recently, BBC's *Clothes Show* presenter, who wanted to offer the public up-to-the-minute designs at rock bottom prices. Warehouse has always worked on fashion's pulse — in the 1970s the store sold

smock tops, Oxford bags and skinny ribs. In the 1980s there were powersuits, padded shoulders and puffballs. Naomi Campbell did some of her first modelling assignments for the ByMail catalogue which also featured a host of supermodels before they were even known as such. Celebrities merrily modelled the wares. In one of the menswear catalogues from the mid-1980s you can find a (very) young David Simms, now the ultra-hip fashion photographer who lists Calvin Klein and *Harpers Bazaar* among his clients. Then he was a photographer's assistant and was pushed in front of the camera to model a natty shirt and tie.

Although the 1990s prices may not be quite so keen, Banks's vision — he left the company in 1989 — is still kept very much alive by the fashion director Yasmin Yusuf, who has been responsible for pulling the company back to the forefront of fashion. Today there are 75 Warehouse stores throughout Britain which this autumn offer directional looks which mirror those seen on the international catwalks — jersey trouser suits with the all-important "bootcut" trousers, one-button blazers in plum and midnight blue velvet, fluffy Tibetan lamb trims, wild animal prints, narrow-cut leather jeans in creamy shades, tunics, military styling, and slinky jersey Halston-inspired evening dresses.

After two decades Warehouse is still looking good. Below, some of those involved with the company over the years celebrate the success of the stylish high street store.

Jeff Banks — fashion designer, retailer and commentator: "In the mid-1970s the cost of clothes was on an upward spiral. I went to Harrods and saw one of my sheepskin coats selling for £800. I couldn't afford to own the things I was designing. I decided to open a shop flogging designs straight from the factory. It made everything much more economical for the customer and hadn't been done since Barbara Hulanicki did it with Biba. I put together a design team from graduates from the RCA and Saint

Martin's College of Art: many now head their own design teams at Jigsaw, Oasis, M&S and Monsoon. The store ran like a warehouse, hence the name."

Yasmin Yusuf — fashion director, Warehouse: "I still get a thrill when I see someone wearing one of our outfits. People don't have enough disposable income to buy designer clothes or they want to spend money on their homes, families and holidays. We're not like France or Italy where they wear their wealth."

Marcus Von Ackermann — fashion director, French *Vogue*: "People are always accusing the high street of ripping off designer fashion but Warehouse have their own design studio and their collections are 75 per cent finished when we [the fashion press] go to the collections. They don't get pictures of Dolce & Gabbana and rip it off. I don't think many people realise that. I styled the menswear when Jeff Banks launched it, and I've styled their pictures for the past two years or so."

John Bishop, photographer: "The first thing I ever did was a brochure which was one of the first to be done by a

high street store. It was also the first time anybody had used supermodels. The girl of the moment was Deirdre McGuire and I remember Jeff ended up paying her a lot of money, maybe \$2,000 a day.

When Jeff did the ByMail catalogue the concept was brand new: now everybody is doing fashion mail order. We photographed all the models before they became household names — Christy Turlington, Naomi Campbell, Stephanie Seymour, Andie McDowell — I remember thinking she was really great but who knew that in ten years' time she would be starring in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*? Jeff always got the best out of people. For the models it was a good thing to do."

Lucinda Chambers, fashion director, *Vogue*: "Warehouse was one of the first high street shops that really gave cutting-edge fashion to young girls. The clothes are well cut, a good price and yet still very fashionable. I styled photographs of Tilda Swinton taken by Kim Krieger for a tribute to the photographer Norman Parkinson. There was a slim budget but you could do whatever you wanted. We made Tilda look like Georgia O'Keeffe — very classic. I always go to Warehouse to see what's right for now. I would still go there for really good basics — cardigans, skinny polo necks, T-shirts — they are good quality at good prices and the young kids go there

for funky things. It just never stands still."

Mandy Smith: "I loved the pictures I did for Warehouse. The photographer, Stevie Hughes, made the shoot and the pictures fun. I was wearing glamorous party frocks. There was a red velvet jacket that

was gorgeous and I remember a pale pink dress which I wasn't overkeen on. They had a cancan-girl feeling which of course I desperately wanted to be when I was young, and a touch of Madonna. I've always admired her so I quite liked that."

Caroline Baker — fashion editor, *You* magazine: "I began working with Warehouse on the ByMail catalogues. Jeff knew what he wanted and he got what he wanted. I remember being stuck in a basement studio during a heatwave. We'd shoot non-stop, 24 different pictures a day. Every outfit had to be styled completely differently. At the time I was known as queen of styling because I used to pile all the bits on — jewellery, headwraps, over-the-knee socks, belts, the lot. Today in styling less is more. Jeff understood the selling power of supermodels — Kristen McMenemy, Cecilia Chancellor, Carla Bruni, Talisa Soto and, of course, Christy and Naomi."

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Rivals who vie for love



In the final part of our series, Grace Bradberry and Anjana Ahuja report on siblings under stress

COPING WITH ILLEGITIMACY

Ellie O'Sullivan was two years old when she was sent away to boarding school, along with her sister Bridget, who was three years older. Their mother did not explain why they could not remain with her. Nor were they told who their father was, though they were led to believe that their mother had once been married.

In fact, they were illegitimate. Their mother, Lean O'Sullivan, a domestic servant at a house in Ireland, had an affair with an older, married, man. When Bridget was born, she somehow contrived to carry on the affair, moving to Dublin where her lover, Timothy Daly, also lived.

But with Ellie's birth she decided to begin a new life in London, and went to live with various sisters who agreed to keep the existence of the two little girls a secret from the extended family.

Several times, Lean took her daughters back to Ireland where they met "Uncle Timothy" without knowing that he was their father.

"We didn't grow up with a sense of shame," says Ellie, now 36. "But I felt something. Our family was very poor, and had never sent children away, and yet we were packed off."

Ellie's older sister became her protector. "I had this expectation that people wouldn't bully Bridget, that they would take her seriously. Of course, that wasn't true because she was a child like me, but just thinking it was enough. Once when I was in trouble at boarding school, I was made to stand in a cold bathroom and she came storming up and demanded that I be put back in my bed. She was right at the time."

Their experiences created a close bond, but also left them with a curious ambivalence towards one another, something that Ellie explores in her documentaries, one of which is to be broadcast on the BBC.

In hindsight, Ellie is riven by guilt at what she sees as the burden her sister had to bear. "Being older than I was, Bridget knew more and felt more than I did. I still feel

guilty that she was exposed to it more. She was my defence against everything. When I was about 23, I remember someone saying to her, 'Are you glad you had a sister?' and she said, 'No'. I was devastated. Now she says it meant nothing, but it upset me and I realised that to have this small person as her responsibility must have been hard."

While Ellie romanticised the circumstances of her birth, her sister Bridget seems to have carried the burden of knowing more.

"It was only when I reached 14 that I suddenly said to my mother, out of the blue, 'You weren't really married, there is no husband'. And she said that no, there wasn't. I was stunned."

But it transpired that Bridget knew. My mother said, 'I thought your sister would have told you'. And to this day, Bridget and I don't discuss it."

Their relationship is still incredibly close, but it changed considerably during their teenage years. When Ellie was 11, and her sister 14, their mother found a home of

her own, and took her daughters home to live with her. They were sent to a secondary modern school and suddenly had many hours of unsupervised time.

"Suddenly we were divided, looked upon as two separate people. Both of us found it difficult."

As they grew into their twenties the relationship mended itself. Ellie is now married to Peter, and has a daughter, Charlotte, by her first marriage. Bridget lives with Brian, her partner, and has two sons. But their experiences as children still shape how they feel about each other.

"My husband was shocked when he saw how my sister and I behaved when we went to see my mother. Right up until she died in 1983, he said we would be like two small children vying for her attention."

● Ellie O'Sullivan's Picture This: Who Do I Love The Most. BBC 2, next Tuesday, 8pm.

GRACE BRADBERRY



Ellie, above, and her elder sister Bridget were kept a secret from the rest of the family

William Preston would have been 30 in October. The trainee English teacher would have probably been writing comedy pilots or science fiction pilots by now. Eleanor, his younger sister, often wonders what might have been. William died after an epileptic seizure in November 1982. "I woke up one Saturday morning to the most bloodcurdling scream," she says. "My mother was calling out my father's name." Her mother found William lying on the floor of his bedroom at the family's rambling Victorian home in southwest London. He was pronounced dead on arrival at the former St Stephen's Hospital in Chelsea.

Eleanor, now a 25-year-old freelance journalist, comes from an educated, literary family — her father, Antony, is a naval historian and author, her mother, Jennifer, is an educational consultant, her

BEREAVEMENT

brother, Matthew, 35, is a journalist in Australia and his sister, Katie, 28, is a books editor in west London. William would have continued this tradition. He read English at Wadham College, Oxford University, and his first job was teaching English to foreigners. He was 22 when he died.

He came close to death with his first fit four years earlier, after which he was diagnosed as having epilepsy. Despite this, nobody in the family had seriously contemplated losing him. Their sense of loss was compounded by the rareness of the event — sudden death from epilepsy is not well understood.

Eleanor was 17 at the time. An inevitable period of intense emptiness followed, made worse by the fact that no one seemed to understand how she felt. "When the fiftieth person came up to me and asked 'How is your mum coping?' I felt like replying 'She's going through hell and so am I'."

The feelings of Eleanor, Katie and Matthew are echoed by the experiences of other bereaved siblings, according to Heather Elvans, who co-runs Support in Bereavement for Brothers and Sisters (Sibbs).

When Heather was 11, her sister died of a brain tumour. She did not seek help until she was 24. "I felt I had reached crisis point, and had to deal with it." Two years later, she and Jo Humphries, another bereaved sibling, set up Sibbs, an arm of the bereavement organisation Compassionate Friends.

The organisation, which Heather runs in her spare time from her York home, is a support group rather than a counselling service, and sends out a regular newsletter featuring letters and poems. Heather estimates that this year alone, and without any advertising, more than 1,000 people have made contact.

The anguish of losing a sibling can manifest itself in many ways. Some feel suicidal, while others take on aspects of the dead siblings, such as inheriting their ambitions. Several, who cannot cope with the idea that they might inflict further pain on their parents, insulate themselves and change their lives to prevent protective parents from worrying.

Parents look for help, too. "We get lots of parents who are worried about the effect of losing a child on their remaining children," Heather says. "Parents often say they feel their life has ended, and that obviously can have an effect on the other siblings. Children can pick up an awful lot."

ANJANA AHUJA
● Sibbs, PO Box 295, York, YO2 5TP.

Down's victims deserve all of society's care

The children we must never reject

Few children can have had greater cause to celebrate their GCSE passes last week than Aine Rothwell. Aine has Down's syndrome. A few years ago she was refused entrance to three schools in East Sussex, all jostling for positions on the Government league tables. Finally she was accepted by the Uckfield Community College. If Down's children were once regarded as ineducable, Aine Rothwell has helped to lay this myth to rest.

The 1981 Education Act gave children with special needs the right to be educated in mainstream schools. Yet, in spite of numerous research studies proving that children with Down's syndrome perform better in such schools, several local authorities continue to implement a policy of segregation. Councils that have invested in special facilities are reluctant to see their efforts neglected. Authorities argue that they cannot afford the additional cost of supporting disabled children.

But with the quality of a child's life at stake, every effort should be made to overcome financial hurdles. Cozy elitism must not be allowed to snuggle up with a quasi-fascist form of discrimination dangerously close to the terrifying ideologies of eugenics.

Our is an age of increasing standardisation and homogeneity. We are too often queasily ambivalent about those who are "different". That so few now dare to be eccentric, marks the chief danger of our time," wrote John Stuart Mill in 1859. Those who do not behave in accordance with social convention threaten a conservatism which guards our personalities. We ostracise those whom we do not understand.

Yet the line between genius and abnormality is tenuous. Great thinkers such as Blake, Wittgenstein and Einstein all balanced on the borders of mental instability. Rothko's grandiose canvases, Van Gogh's tempestuous palette, Pollock's wild expression were all the products of erratic minds. In this abnormality we have come to find our deepest truths. In classical literature, Sybilline prophecies were uttered in an ecstatic trance. Shakespeare's King Lear finds stark reason in the madness of his fool. We should learn from our culture and history that abnormality is to be cherished rather than barricaded off by unforgiving standards of conventionality.

This is not to say that we have the right to clamber onto the high moral ground, branding as callous and cowardly a woman who terminates a pregnancy. We live in a world in which clear moral poles have long since vanished. But once a child has been born, whatever its defects, it is society's solemn duty to nurture it.

"When James was born, I remember the tremendous quiet in my head when I thought about the unknown territories of his future," said a friend of mine whose brother was born with Down's syndrome. But her mother was determined that this, the youngest of six children, should lead as normal a life as possible. Down's children, the family soon learnt, have an enormous potential. With help they may go on to lead relatively independent lives, learning to read and write, relate socially, hold down jobs, even marry.

James had weak muscle tone as a toddler. His mother tried to get him into children's dancing classes to help him to balance and walk better, but schools rejected him. She got used to hiding his pushchair before he reached the doorway in the hope that he would be accepted. Now, after private tuition, he has reached third grade in tap dancing. Persistence coaxes out talent.

"James was lethargic at first," his sister told me. "Teaching him the piano, my mother used to have to push and push him to succeed. She would replace his fingers on the keys each time that he snatched them away. Sometimes he would head-butt her with frustration. But now the piano is one of his greatest pleasures. He doesn't have the same capacity for lateral thinking as I do, but this means he is more persistent. He will forget about combing his hair or brushing his teeth and sit down at the piano and play Chopin for hours on end."

Those with Down's syndrome have much to teach us. Although it is a misplaced generalisation to assume that they are naturally of a blithe disposition — they share the same joys and sadnesses as most people — they often show an emotional frankness of response, over-riding the cynicism of a distrustful world. Those who work with the disabled often find their attentions distracted from the cosmetic fripperies of life. From the disadvantaged we can learn the arts of compassion and understanding which help to seal any civilisation together.

The staff in our mainstream schools should commit themselves to taking in children with special needs, not only for the sake of those who are disadvantaged but for the benefit of the "normal" children with whom they will grow up. As Shakespeare says: "In nature there's no blemish but the mind / None can be call'd deformed but the unkind." It is only when we accord a due dignity and a full role in society to those less advantaged than ourselves that we will be able to consider ourselves a true civilisation.



Rachel Campbell-Johnston

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Alan Coren



■ If you want a view of the inner man, I can offer you a deal

One barren morning, four centuries ago, staring out blankly over what might as well have been Cricklewood for all the good it was doing him, Sir Philip Sidney sat, as countless hacks have ever done, glumly fiddling with his word-processor, unable to get started. That it was the best word-processor on the market — plucked, you may be sure, from a really top goose — made no difference at all, since it could process only if given words to do it with, and words were just what Sir Philip didn't have; so he hunched there, as he morosely tells us, "biting my truant pen, beating myself for spite." But help, this being 1582, was on the way: Calliope, that emergency plumber of the blocked imagination, spotted a client stymied for opening words, and did not mince her own: "Fool," said my Muse to me, "look in thy heart and write." And, in a trice, Sidney was off and running.

And now so am I. Stuck for an entrance into today's big theme, I too have decided to look in my heart and write. Indeed, I am looking in it as I write: there it is beside my desk, pumping away for all it is worth, which is rather more than I feared it was worth last week, when the video I am currently watching on my desk-side portable was shot. For the heart I am looking in is the radiant star of an angiogram undergone at the Harley Street Clinic to determine whether there was anything wrong with its coronary arteries, and since there wasn't, the clinic not only let me out again, it gave me the film as a going-home present, along with a big bunch of flowers it had thoughtfully put in my room to cheer me up while I lay waiting for the operation; although what they actually did was cheer me down, because, as I waited, I kept imagining how they would look lying on a pine lid.

But now, relieved, I find myself bang in the middle of today's big theme: for, as you know, at first light on Monday, Health Minister Gerry Malone sprang from his own fretful cot and ran round to the High Court to obtain an injunction banning the sale of a video entitled *Everyday Operations*. An anthology of the best bits, as it were, from 27 surgical procedures, this jolly item was about to be knocked out at £12.99 in video shops throughout the country to punters apparently eager to sit gobbling popcorn while they watched unwitting NHS patients having their iffy constituents poked, sliced, scooped out and bucketed.

Mr Malone thinks this is, quite literally, a bit bloody much, and he is absolutely right. For while it is perfectly understandable that the viewing public would far rather watch a lung being sectioned or a squiret realigned than have to sit through *Sister Wendy's Story of Painting* or the 14th repeat of *Dad's Army*, it is manifestly outrageous that this preference should be exploited by a commercial company for fat profits of which the poor suffering stars themselves get not even a sniff. To wait six years to have your NHS hernia stapled is bad enough, without being cheated of your due percentage of the gate. Aneurin Bevan must be turning in his grave.

Which is why Gerry Malone is barking up quite the wrong tree. What he should be calling for is a comprehensive codicil to those consent forms one is required to sign before surgeons are let loose on one's innards: this would set out everything from the patient's cut of his cut's profits to his billing (below the surgeon's, say, but above the theatre sister's) and his rights in the event of a sequel, eg *Hip Replacement II*.

Until the necessary legislation is in place, however, it would be a great pity if the public's taste, whetted to a scalpel's edge by the current shenanigans, were to remain unsatisfied. Which is why it is so happily fortuitous that I happen to know where I can lay my hands on a little something to tide them over. It is neither very long, nor very dramatic, but it is unquestionably very horrible — this must be the dozenth time I have watched it, and, look, I have broken out in a muck sweat yet again — and an absolute snip at £2.99 for an evening's rental. Especially as by way of an introductory offer, each subscriber will receive, absolutely free and his to keep, a full-colour Polaroid of what may well turn out to be a major ingrowing toenail.

Howard Davies explains why he can never forsake Manchester City — however badly they play

From birth to Bank, I can't kick my City

In December 1949, a couple of months before I was born, my father wrote, with typical foresight, to his closest friend, asking if he would agree to act as godfather to the imminent infant. By return the friend replied that he would be delighted to serve, but on one condition: that the child, if a boy, was to be brought up as a Manchester City supporter. This was an important proviso, since my parents' was a "mixed" marriage in Mancunian terms: he Blue, she Red. My godfather, a West Brom fan from 40 years before Skinner and Baddiel made that unfashionable, had a decent man's horror of Old Trafford.

This documented exchange makes me one of the relatively few Manchester City supporters who can claim a record of allegiance longer than their lifespan. And for a brief shining moment in the late 1960s, as Bell, Lee and Summerbee destroyed defences from Newcastle to Southampton, and George Heslop stood rock-like at the back, this was a proud boast. Since 1976, when we last won a trophy (and even then only the League Cup), it has felt rather different — more like a virulent hereditary disease transmitted in the womb, condemning its victim to a life of suffering and remorse.

So the events of the past week — two

embarrassing defeats at the feet of Bolton and Stoke, and the loss of yet another failed manager — are just the latest twist of the knife. Not a crisis, not a cathartic moment promising better times around the corner, rather a further limp along the road to Acerrington Stanley.

For being a Manchester City supporter is not quite like other sporting affiliations. It is not an easy row to hoe. Indeed sometimes it is close to impossible. For some years, the London branch of the supporters club, to which I belong, was excommunicated by the Manchester parent as the result of an incomprehensible internecine squabble, making it impossible for us to buy tickets in the usual way.

And that's not all. Which other club would, as City did this March, hold a sell-out 500-seat dinner to celebrate 20 years without a trophy? Which other club would, as City did in May, come

back from two goals down against Liverpool in the season's last game, then instruct the team from the bench to play for time on the basis of a misheard radio report suggesting that they needed only a draw to stay up — and then realise with only five minutes to go that they needed another goal?

Which other club, with one outstanding star player called Kinkadee, would ensure that a week before the season starts the souvenir shop has no iron-on letter Ks for its replica shirts? (My small sons, with the stoicism they will surely need in future years, settled for "GIO".)

So why bother? Why not change horses? Why not follow the example of the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, Sir Terence Burns, who forsook his roots, when North-East football appeared to be in a terminal condition a few years back, to follow then trendy QPR?

However tempting it might seem, I couldn't do it. Not just because the

Burns manoeuvre — with Newcastle, Sunderland and Middlesbrough all in the Premiership and QPR rebuilding in the Nationwide — now looks misjudged. Rather, I think, because there is a perverse satisfaction to be had from Maine Road which keeps me, and others like me, loyal through thick and thin.

My sons and I have convinced ourselves that there is something uniquely virtuous about supporting a club which offers so little return: the satisfaction earned from caring for an ungrateful relative, or tinkering for days with a bike you know you'll never ride again. An activity where the pursuit is its own reward: all foreplay, never reaching the baseline, so to speak.

We deprecate the meretricious antics of those who favour clubs which promise success, dismissing them as "glory supporters", satisfied only by the facile pleasures of goal-scoring and victory. I blind to the purer rewards which lie in

doe-like, undemanding affection expecting no obvious reciprocation. Well, perhaps. It's the best justification we can come up with. And it carries us through the dark times — like last week on holiday, when Cephallonian and Ithacan branches of the Manchester United fan club dogged our every landfall in the Ionian with their ubiquitous Cantona strips.

But where do we go from here? Is Manchester City now condemned to become a kind of rehabilitation programme for tarnished managers — as we learn that Bruce Rioch and Kenny Dalglish are under consideration for Alan Ball's vacated chair? Will George Graham design to use us as the vehicle for his return? A backhanded compliment that would be. Or is Liam Gallagher being lined up — that would explain his late withdrawal from the Oasis tour of North America.

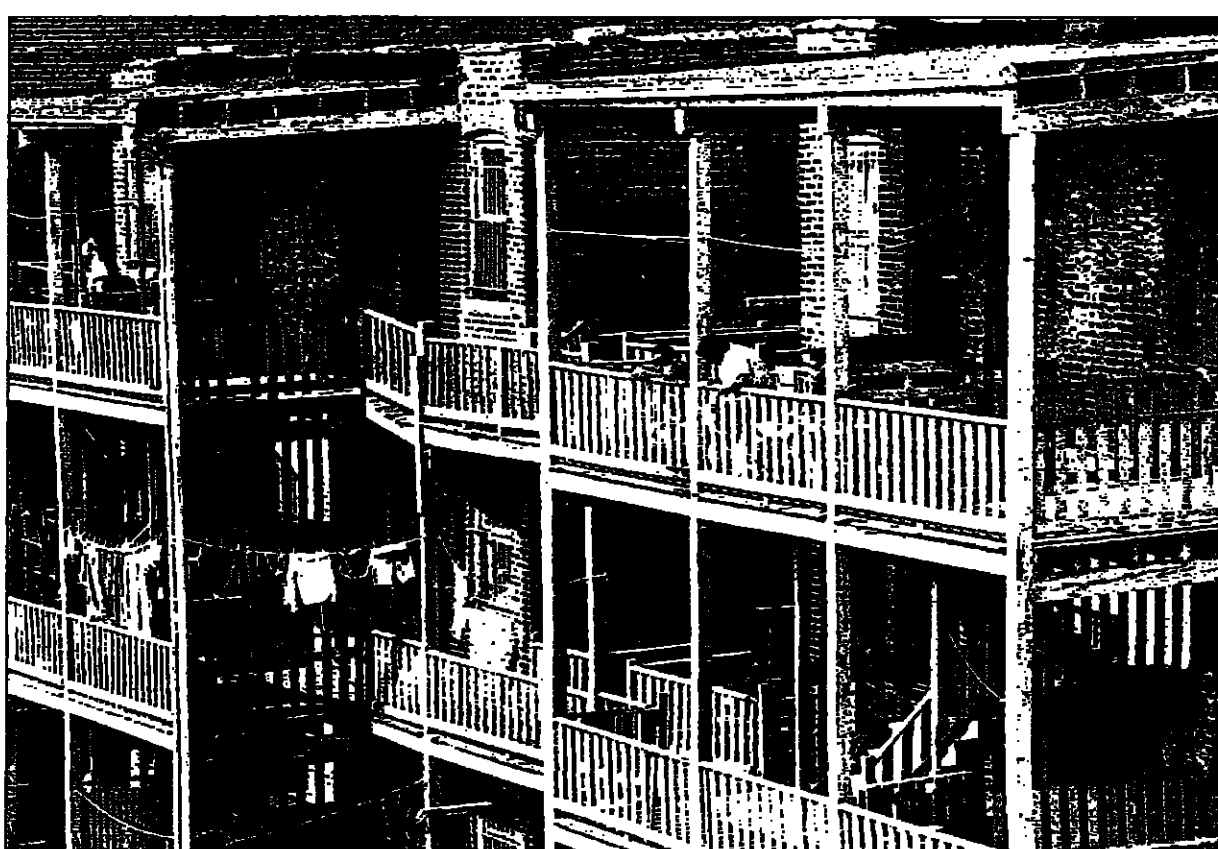
Whoever pins up the teamsheet for our next titanic struggle — against Charlton Athletic, since you ask — will have my uncritical support. Because I know that my "Baggie" godfather — alive and well in Sidmouth — is still watching me, and the condition of his service still stands.

The author is Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

Old Chicago's turbulent past

Saul Bellow reflects on his home town's love affair

with democracy and its dalliances with the Democrats



The old "string of industrial villages", consisted of a geometrical arrangement of distinct neighbourhoods

In the matter of presidential politics I am like most Americans — I have preferences and opinions, but I have seldom been in touch with the godlike beings who govern. Years ago I was invited to dine at the Kennedy White House. Among the great figures to whom I was introduced was LBJ. The then Vice-President towered over me. He was a very big man dressed in a mid-night blue tuxedo. With the material that had gone into this garment one might have hung an awning over a Texas corral. His two hands covered my right in a hearty hand sandwich. All I could find to say was that George Reedy, his press secretary, had been my classmate in the Thirties. Mr Johnson seemed highly offended. Did I have no more than this to offer the second most powerful man in America? He glared at his aides, as if to order them, "Take this jerk away, pronto!"

I was not to see him again until 1964, when he was nominated at the Democratic convention in Atlantic City. This time, I carried a press pass. I seem to remember that I was commissioned to write my impressions for a national paper. Atlantic City had not yet been revived by gambling resorts. The town looked poor, shabby. The boardwalk needed repairing. Beach sand had drifted into the streets.

Senator Hubert Humphrey, who had been knocked out of the Democratic race four years earlier by JFK and who was expected to be Johnson's running-mate, had not as yet been told by the President that he was to be on the ticket. He was waiting — waiting, waiting. Shades of anxiety hung over him. His pleasant, ruddy, politician's face was not good at impassivity. His aides, kindly and helpful, played ping-pong with him. "Lyndon is dangling him," they told the press. The reporters could see this for themselves. The ball rattling on the green table might have been the bouncing soul of Hubert Horatio Humphrey. A decent liberal democrat, grinning and bearing it, he was hollow with humiliation.

Time was now very short, and at the last moment the presidential summons came. Humphrey flew down to Washington for formal notification. Soon afterwards, presidential helicopters landed in Atlantic City. Humphrey would run with the President.

There is, after all, no reason why our national leaders should be nice guys. Johnson seemed to be a Coriolanus — a fighting man who did not like the crowd. He would not expose his battle scars to the voters. He averted his face from them. You saw only his profile. It was my guess that the real Johnson was at his best in conference, behind closed doors. But my opinions on such matters are no better than the next man's. My experience in public affairs is very limited.

At the age of 12, in 1927, I studied mail-boxes for a man running for a minor Chicago office. The precinct captain paid me 25 cents — a significant piece of change in the days when the price of a hot-dog, with all the fixings, was a nickel. The precinct captain's old mother was

sitting in the kitchen when the printed flyers were handed out to the kids he had recruited. "Why are you doing this?" she said. "Mother, he came through for me when I was up against it. I owe him full support. I gave the man my pledge." This balding, fair-haired man, heavy in the back, was sweating with earnestness. He was a stand-up guy, he was much moved. But of course he was a party man and belonged to the machine.

Of course we followed presidential politics. Chicago was often chosen by the great parties for their national conventions. It was in Chicago that Lincoln was nominated by the Republicans. General George McClellan was chosen in Chicago by the Democrats to run against Lincoln in 1864. In Chicago, Teddy Roosevelt fought Taft for the Republican nomination. FDR would be nominated here in 1932. Chicago was the great host city. We were all aware of its historic importance. We knew how consequential, how momentous, how central Chicago was — the heart and vital core of America. Calvin Coolidge had told us that the business of America was business — and hotels, restaurants and department stores did indeed thrive on national conventions. An official was appointed to meet distinguished travellers at the Dearborn Street Station. Greeter Gaw

the newspapers called him. He wore a vanilla-cream suit and a broadbrimmed white hat and was photographed welcoming Hollywood stars, big-time politicians, presidential hopefuls, baseball players and beauty queens. "Boost. Don't Knock" we were told. "Lay down your hammer, grab a flag."

While voters saw the local politicians as pitchmen for snake oil, they took national politics seriously. They were, in retrospect, surprisingly patriotic.

Chicago was once described as a string of industrial villages. Back in the Twenties and Thirties it was exactly that — a city of German, Irish, Italian, Polish, Ukrainian, Bohemian, Scandinavian, Jewish, Greek, and Negro neighbourhoods. The layout was geometrical — like a doodle by Euclid himself: eight city blocks to the mile; every fourth street a car-line. Running north, south and west were elevated trains. From these, the passengers viewed the backyards and the wooden stairs and porches of the standard sixflats of the city. The commonest trees were cottonwood elms; the commonest flower the geranium. The city was famous for its slaughterhouses and packing plants. "Hogbutcher of the world," as Carl Sandburg wrote (as

much an advertising slogan as a line of verse). The huge mail-order houses — Montgomery Ward on Chicago Avenue, Sears Roebuck on Arthington Street — had their national headquarters here. Agricultural machinery was exported from Chicago to every part of the world. The steel mills blasted night and day; the drop-forges (punch presses) made a thought-annihilating thunder.

In an election when, say, Herbert Hoover was nominated by the Republicans and Al Smith by the Democrats, you learnt that the string of industrial villages — the melting pot, if you prefer — did take national politics seriously.

I remember going to see a school friend, Joey Sugarman, on Division Street. From the convention hall the radio was broadcasting the traditional roll call of the states. Joey's father, a big, bearded, Orthodox Jew, a *shochet* or ritual slaughterer, was calling out the names of the states in alphabetical order, singing them out like a cantor, just ahead of the radio. "Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts..." Very red in the face, very proud of his citizenship.

On Memorial Day, Polish veterans of the First World War gathered in uniform at the Division Street entrance to Humboldt Park. During the Twenties, old men who had fought in the Civil War

marched (some of them supported by their sons and grandsons) on Michigan Avenue. There was a Civil War museum in the Public Library building with regimental banners and arms and mementoes. The fathers of some of our teachers had fought in famous battles. Mrs Jenkins at the Sabin School was the daughter of a soldier who had survived the Andersonville prison-camp. Immigrant children were often passionate readers of Civil War history. They argued over the campaigns of Grant and Sherman. They were often highly emotional about Lincoln. Some of them were to take their children later to visit Civil War battlegrounds.

Our own grandparents, locked up in the Pale of Settlement on Russia's western frontier, had never so much as heard of place names like Antietam or Vicksburg. But their descendants, the children of my generation, were educated to believe in the American project. It was presented to them in a language foreign to their ancestors: it encouraged them to assume that as free persons, politically and legally equal, they were parties to a rational covenant that made the history of the United States of America their own history. This was our naive adolescent conviction. What we learnt in Civics and in American History classes would have to be revised and modified, but it was never to be reversed.

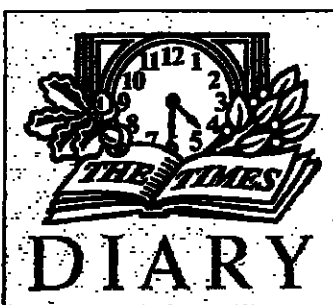
I am well aware that to hard modern thinkers all this will sound perversely simple-minded, sentimental, nostalgic. Modern cosmopolitans and philosophical sophisticates will remind me that the culture of Chicago, this string of industrial villages called a city, was too ugly and clumsy to be anything but a non-culture and that the neighbourhoods where immigrant peasants and labourers lived were more parochial than the Eastern European and Balkan villages they came from. On our side of the Atlantic these arid working-class neighbourhoods in Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo, and so on were also rich in hatred and viciousness; but the higher culture developed in Germany (or Russia or France) did not keep the Nazis, and the populations of the countries their armies occupied, from participating in the murder of millions of men, women and children.

Our liberal American society (bourgeois-liberal, if you like) has not been guilty of such horrors. It is obvious, therefore, that the US, viewed by no small number of Europeans as a dumping ground for everything the Old World wanted to cast out, has been extraordinarily fortunate in its politics. We have had some dud presidents, but there have been no Hitleres here and no Stalins. With all its disorders, corruptions, bureaucratic idiocies, its chaotic or nihilistic state of feelings, thoughts, passions, democracy here makes more sense and perhaps is more rational than its philosophical founders might have thought possible in a country so huge and so mixed.

Health scare

EVIDENCE of an almost unimaginable event in the history of Margaret Thatcher emerges in a television series this week. It highlights the day that the Iron Lady lost her nerve.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, talks openly of her wobbles about reforms of the National Health Service before her fall from power. She worried that the proposals would be too unpopular.



"I don't think we should rush things, Camilla"

In the BBC television series *Safe With Us*, which starts on Sunday, Clarke talks frankly about his time as Health Secretary. Whitehall mandarins fear that he may have overstepped the mark — his comments were made after he banished a minder from the Department of Health from the interview room. "She finally lost her nerve... she was getting very worried about how you could fight an election with these battles going on with the doctors," he says. Health service reform, he continues, sounding rather like Macbeth, "had to be done quickly or it would never have been done at all... I admit we steamrollered it through." Clarke persuaded Thatcher but

she was keeping her options open according to Peter Griffiths, former deputy chief executive of the NHS: "She stood up right at the end of the meeting and looked the Secretary of State in the eye and said quite explicitly 'If we decide to proceed with these reforms, let nobody in the room be in any doubt who will be held responsible if they don't work' — and walked out."

Style leader

ISN'T it wonderful that Tony Blair has been voted the most admired man of the summer and a stylish sex symbol by a racy Italian magazine for well-heeled ladies?

The news coincided with an article in a Sunday supplement about his wife Cherie. It pictured her devotedly helping him dress for a dinner by attaching a clip-on bow-tie. Personally, I've admired the Labour leader's sense of style ever since I came across this picture of him relaxing at home in a stunning combination of flip-flops and white socks, set off by weathered jeans and a Jermyn Street tie.

Fruit and nut

YESTERDAY'S hijack drama brought to mind the steely determination with which Margaret

Thatcher saw off a similar crisis in 1982 when a hijacked Air Tanzania Boeing landed at Stansted. Her secret weapon? Christmas cake.

At the height of the action, she marched into the Cabinet Office briefing room where security chiefs and ministers were weighing the options. Appalled to see that they



Italian fashion idol

hadn't eaten, she popped back to No 10 and picked up three Christmas cakes which had been sent to her by loyal constituents. Refueled, the security wallahs quickly came to a decision on their course of action and the hijack problem was solved.

A colourful era on the polo field has drawn to a close. At the age of 64, Major Ron Ferguson has decided he has played his final chukka after a career of 42 years. The father of the Duchess of York, who represented England in the 1960s and early 70s was the Prince of Wales's polo manager until being released in the wake of publicity surrounding life out of the saddle. "No more matches this year, so that's it now," he says.

Booked again

ERIC CANTONA, the footballer, kickboxer, film actor and *soi-disant* philosopher has a new incarnation: commentator on contemporary fiction. He has been singing the praises of a gritty new novel about a teenage footballer knocked down by a drunk driver. Essex author Jon Eagle, a veteran behind the bars of Chelmsford pubs, asked Cantona to run his eye over the proof. "I enjoyed reading it very much. *Red* is a fine example of



Mollie and Josh: pioneers of livestock art

contemporary fiction and an excellent novel," was the verdict of the Manchester United captain, who until recently displayed only the most hesitant command of English.

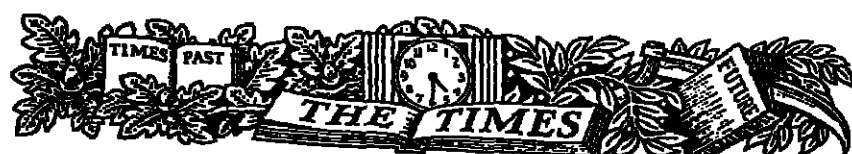
Graze in

ART NEWS: a gallery is to open in West London with plans for a live cow (NB Daniel Hirst) grazing in pasture as its central exhibit. Henry Dent-Brocklehurst's sister Mollie is one of three partners behind

P-Inc, the gallery off London's Ladbroke Grove.

Mollie has cut a swathe in art circles in New York, where she works for a gallery. With business partner Josh Briggs, she has chosen the artist Christopher Landoni to open with a show "focusing on the relationship between humans and animals and their environment". Not a drop of formaldehyde, she insists, and definitely no BSE.

P.H.S



PRISON DISCIPLINE

The penal system has benefited from reform

The search for a scapegoat is natural in politics. The botched release of 86 prisoners last week, the rapid reversal of the policy and the ensuing uncertainty have precipitated demands for the resignation of Richard Tilt, the Director of the Prison Service, and the Home Secretary, Michael Howard. The paper chase of documents related to the release policy does not so far lead definitively to any single culprit. Instead, it again provokes broader questions about the relationship between the ministers who set the policies and the men who run the prisons.

Since the Prison Service became a Next Steps Agency in April 1993 it has attracted special controversy. Reformers faced a coalition of vested interests who were upset by the move and anxious to protect the culture of a failing system. The then Home Secretary, Kenneth Clarke, recognised the truth: that prison governors were inclined to indulge the Prison Officers' Association and that prison officers were inclined to indulge the inmates. As in so many areas of the public sector, the Government was right to tackle institutions that were run for the convenience of those on the inside and not in the interests of those on the outside.

In health, education and social security, the devolution of responsibility from Whitehall has produced real efficiency gains. Attitudes have changed as private sector expertise has supplanted public sector complacency. Market disciplines have seen resources allocated more wisely and managers act more imaginatively.

The Prison Service has been taken down the same path, albeit at a more faltering pace. There have been improvements since agency status was established: escapes are on a downward trend, conditions have generally improved and money has been used more effectively. These reforms have been accompanied by a welcome emphasis from Michael Howard on the need for prisons to

make their first duty the protection of the public. The combination, however, of structural change and a criminal justice system geared to incarcerating more dangerous offenders has placed strains on prisons.

Reform is rarely easy. The more pressing the need for change, the more difficult it can be to enact. Prison officers, anxious to preserve their privileges, backed by a penal establishment unhappy that decades of liberal orthodoxy were being challenged by Mr Howard, have sought to exploit events to derail government policy. Neither lobby has shown itself as sensitive to public concern about crime as ministers. Both deserve to have their complaints treated with a proper scepticism.

The creation of executive agencies was designed not only to improve efficiency in the public sector but transparency too. The occasionally blurred borders between ministers and mandarins were to be replaced by clear divisions of responsibility: the Government was to frame policy and executives were to oversee its implementation. It has not always been easy to define exactly where the division rests. Confusion has handed political ammunition to the Government's enemies. But the creation of agencies has at least made matters more open. Contrary to current myth, ministers were previously only too happy to shelter behind the pinstriped camouflage of their civil servants.

There is room for refinement. Agency executives could make themselves more accountable to public representatives, possibly through the Commons Select Committee system. But the best safeguard of the public interest is likely to be a more eager embrace of the philosophy that has driven reform. The gradual growth of market pressures, governed by effective regulation, is the most effective guarantee of improved performance. The Government should not lose sight of that essential principle.

THE BRITISH WAY

Safety for crew and passengers, stiff penalties for the crime

The calm and highly professional handling at Stansted airport of the hijacked Sudan Air flight has averted the death or injury of nearly 200 passengers and crew. The peaceful outcome vindicates the Government's decision to accede to the hijackers' demands to be flown to Britain. Hijackers have blown up aircraft in the past, as the Iraqis who seized this plane had threatened to do if grounded at Larnaca. MPs who say that permitting it to land here puts Britain at risk of becoming a prime destination for future hijackers should ask themselves whether, simply because there were no British citizens on board, they would have been content for that reason to put the lives of these people at risk.

The "epidemic" theory of hijacking takes little note of the great rarity today of a crime that in the early 1970s accounted for a third of international terrorist incidents. Would-be hijackers have been deterred by anti-terrorist technology and by the remarkably united determination of governments to make this a crime that never pays. Greatly improved airport security has been backed by exemplary penalties, exacted whether or not the political motives of the hijacker would otherwise inspire sympathy.

Of the two previous hijackings which Stansted has had to deal with, in 1975 and 1982, the first originated in Manchester. In the second case, an Air Tanzania Boeing 737 had landed successfully at Dar-es-Salaam, Nairobi, Jeddah and Athens before the hijackers gave themselves up at Stansted. None of the countries involved viewed the arrival of that aircraft with equanimity: each decided, as Britain did yesterday, that the safety of passengers must be paramount.

Britain has never been a destination of choice. Provided that yesterday's Iraqi

hijackers are treated with the rigour that their crime demands, there is no reason why it should become one now. The seven men arrested are expected to seek political asylum. They may well argue that they never intended any harm to either crew or passengers and that their sole purpose was to seek refuge in this country. They may be entirely sincere. The Home Secretary should turn a deaf ear. Whatever the motive — and Iraqis have better founded fears of persecution than the nationals of almost any other country — hijacking is a crime that can never be other than disproportionate. It should be excluded from the curious provision in British law that makes it possible for those accused of criminal acts to claim asylum.

The easy option for Mr Howard is to accede to demands to expel them to Sudan. This he should also resist. They have been arrested in this country and under British law have the right to a fair trial. To expel them to Sudan would be tantamount to summary execution. Sudan's record of respect for due process is appalling and Iraq's even worse. Because of the intimate relations between Sudan and Iraq, they could be delivered over to Baghdad where torture and execution would be their certain fate.

But they must be subjected to the full severity of British justice. The Crown should seek the maximum penalty for hijacking, which in this country is life imprisonment. If convicted, they should serve their full sentences. The Essex police have confirmed Britain's reputation for bringing hijacking incidents to a bloodless conclusion. That is a matter for pride. It is equally important now to reinforce Britain's reputation as a country that does not weaken before this abhorrent form of criminal blackmail.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

A mathematician praises madness

The co-existence of genius and madness has been long recognised. More controversial is the claim that insanity can itself be an aid to genius. Yesterday John Nash, the eminent mathematician, insisted that his 15 years of schizophrenia had improved his output. Delivering a paper to the 10th World Congress of Psychiatry in Madrid, Professor Nash admitted to his youth to having suffered from acute paranoia, hearing voices and telephone calls in his head and seeing crypto-communists everywhere. Although he was intermittently kept in hospital, his mathematics went from strength to strength. This was the result, he claimed, of being able to transcend normal rational thought and engage in "ultra-logical thinking".

For a game theorist such as Professor Nash, this seems an odd claim. Game theory, after all, works on the assumption that players will make rational choices. Economists using the theory have to assume that companies want to maximise their profits; arms control theorists have to assume that countries do not want to be obliterated. Perhaps the absence of rational thought elsewhere in Professor Nash's mind allowed him to compensate in the one area that required it.

According to psychiatrists, mental illness on the whole destroys creativity while a propensity to mental illness encourages it. Borderline schizophrenics may be extremely creative, as their state of mind triggers unexpected trains of thought and unusual

ways of looking at things. These are just the leaps of imagination that mathematicians need. The illness has a large genetic component, and studies have shown that relatives of schizophrenics tend to be more creative than average.

Abstract mathematics, and its cousin, abstract philosophy, are lonely professions. Unlike science, they cannot be pursued in a team. The two disciplines tend, therefore, to attract introverted people who do not always find it easy to sustain normal relationships. Some may even be on the cusp of mental instability. Professor Nash cited the examples of mathematicians such as Alan Turing, Kurt Gödel and Emil Post. Isaac Newton underwent a period of schizophrenia in which he accused Locke of trying to embezzle him with women. Those who are most gifted at abstract thought often find their intellectual prowess matched by emotional inadequacy. Among those philosophers who never married are Newton himself, Descartes, Locke, Spinoza, Leibniz, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche and Kierkegaard.

Most poignantly, Professor Nash questioned whether "curing" mad geniuses was even desirable. In an echo of Peter Shaffer's *Equus*, he said that a return to rationality could be the source of "great pain", particularly if the sufferer's talent were thereby diluted. Luckily this mathematician regained his mind without losing his brain. In 1994, he won the ultimate accolade: a Nobel Prize.

Remand time as part of sentence

From His Honour Joseph Dean

Sir, Is it possible that the lawyers advising the Prison Service have overlooked Section 104 (the interpretation) of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 (letters, August 26)? Section 104 (2) states that

For the purposes of any reference in this Act, however expressed, to the term of imprisonment... to which a person has been sentenced or which, or part of which, he has served, consecutive terms and terms which are wholly or partly concurrent shall be treated as a single term.

This can only mean that the length of any sentence of imprisonment which, under Section 67 of the Act, is to be reduced by any period already spent in custody, refers to the total length of the sentence passed by the judge. Thus remand time can only be deducted once against the totality of the sentence.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH DEAN,
The Hall,
West Brabourne, Ashford, Kent.
August 26.

From Mr Colin Farrington

Sir, The causes of the repeated financial and administrative problems in the Prison Service are:

1. Misguided attempts to detach the service from its natural home within the Home Office, with its constitutional, criminal justice and legal expertise, and to pretend that it can be "operationally independent".

2. Appointments to its top positions of former prison governors who entered what they thought would be a social-service career, but who have finished up as administrators.

The Prison Service needs to return to a proper framework of accountability, run by career civil servants who can maintain a critical distance from staff in the field, who know how to do effective battle with the Treasury and who understand how to sustain a proper working relationship with ministers.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN FARRINGTON
(Assistant Secretary,
Home Office, 1985-88),
Leigh House,
18 Upper Rock Gardens,
Brighton, East Sussex.
August 26.

Access to the Bar

From Mr Roger Everest

Sir, *The Times* is to be congratulated for publishing Neil Addison's article, "Easy access to the Bar — as there once was" (Law, August 20).

Conclusively it blows away the myth that the defence solicitor has a vital part to play in the administration of justice. In my 25 years' experience as an advocate in criminal law the accused is more often than not badly served by his solicitor — often recruited for him by the police while he is in custody.

Mr Addison's argument for allowing those accused of crime to have direct access to a barrister is unanswerable. This will become increasingly more practical as barristers join the Internet.

Yours truly,
ROGER EVEREST
(Barrister-at-law),
PO Box 32,
Pontyclun, Mid Glamorgan.
August 20.

Student barristers

From Mr Eoin Fowell

Sir, Your report of August 13 attributed the sharp fall in the pass rate for student barristers to poverty among the student body. Having just completed the course, I disagree.

Comparatively few students take up part-time work, many preferring instead to claim unemployment and even housing benefit, attesting that the course involves less than 25 hours study per week.

There is no evidence that those with extra jobs do less well, and anecdotal evidence actually suggests the reverse. Last year for example Mr Malcolm Bruce, MP, successfully completed the course, despite the distractions of the Liberal Democrat Economic Affairs portfolio.

In any event, funding has changed little recently, so it is a poor excuse for the drastic decline in the number of passes. The most obvious explanation, much as the Dean of the Bar School would have us believe otherwise, lies in the selection policy for the Bar vocational course, which has changed twice in the last two years, each time for the worse.

In its latest manifestation, once again the work of outside educationalists, a candidate's selection is heavily determined by his or her degree result. While this sounds fair, it rests on the fashionable assumption that all degrees of a given class are of equal merit, irrespective of the institution awarding the degree, or of how long ago it was awarded, or even in what subject it was taken.

I would have hoped that the dismal results of this policy would have prompted a rethink, rather than simply more pleas for funding.

Yours faithfully,
EOIN FOWELL,
4 Loakes House,
Loakes Road,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.
August 18.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Practical means to clean up the air

From the Director of the British Geological Survey

Sir, Given that restricting the use of cars is not seen as a viable option for improving air quality in British cities, I hope that the use of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as a fuel (report, August 22; letters, August 24) will receive serious consideration. I used an LPG car for several months last year in Australia and found its performance excellent and the running costs half that of a conventional petrol-driven car.

LPG produces no particulates, no benzene, no 1,3-butadiene and little, if any, sulphur dioxide or nitrogen dioxide. Its byproducts are carbon dioxide and water. The range of a car on LPG is about 200 miles. Holland has been using LPG for road transport for many years. In eastern Australia most taxis and an increasing number of cars are powered by it (there, LPG is about half the price of petrol, a consequence of low taxation).

The cost of converting a conventional petrol-driven car to LPG is probably of the order of £1,000 to £2,000, giving a pay-back period of perhaps two to four years depending on the distance travelled and the cost of LPG. New cars with dual LPG and petrol are even more cost-effective and convenient.

Like all fossil fuels LPG is a finite resource, but the UK currently produces more LPG from the North Sea than it uses. In 1994 we exported more than a million metric tonnes. The use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) may be an option for the future as there are vast resources of natural gas in the UK and worldwide. However, there are major technical problems to be overcome before LNG is an alternative to LPG for transportation.

To encourage the shift to LPG the Government should consider making a commitment to continue taxing it at a lower level than petrol or diesel. Any cost to the Exchequer in forgone income would probably be more than offset by the savings to the National Health Service from the decrease in

the number of cases of asthma and cancer.

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. COOK, Director,
British Geological Survey,
Kingsley Dunham Centre,
Keyworth, Nottingham.
August 22.

From the Chief Executive of London First

Sir, In unveiling its national air-quality strategy the Government has addressed an issue which has been neglected for too long. Air pollution in London, for example, is now at unacceptably high levels, affecting Londoners' health and our competitiveness as a world-class city.

The Government admits, however, that there will still be up to a 10 per cent shortfall on its own targets for reducing the pollutants mainly found in diesel. London First believes that with some help from the Treasury, cleaner fuels and technologies can play a vital role in closing this gap.

A comprehensive package of fiscal incentives, including alterations to the current fuel duty and vehicle excise duty, are needed to encourage the greater use of cleaner fuels such as ultra-low sulphur diesels, which would reduce harmful emissions.

Industry has already taken a lead in tackling the growing problem of air pollution in the capital. Over 100,000 vehicles have signed up to London First's Clean Air Charter, a series of practical steps designed to reduce emissions from company fleets.

Now Government must do its bit by helping this process along. The success of the differential fuel duty in promoting the use of unleaded petrol is testimony to the effectiveness of fiscal incentives. November's Budget will be an opportune time for the Chancellor to deploy them here.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN O'BRIEN,
Chief Executive, London First,
Caxton House, 6 Tothill Street, SW1.
August 22.

TV science and the paranormal

From the Director General of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers

Sir, A recent tendency, particularly on television, to forgo scientific scrutiny and explain unusual events in terms of the paranormal, is encouraging the anti-science culture that is threatening the prosperity of this country.

Earlier this month we were shown a self-styled expert with no apparent credentials claim "spontaneous human combustion" to be a nuclear reaction, without evidence being provided on radioactivity readings.

A disturbed couple, confessing they had had an interest in the occult, looked to "hidden forces" to explain their large electricity bill. No systematic check was shown to quantitatively identify the imbalance between meter reading and power consumed by individual appliances.

In another house, strange footsteps were reportedly heard, but no evidence was provided to eliminate more mundane reasons for the noise, such as expansion and contraction of the domestic heating system.

Finally, claims were made from a little-known university that "lucky" people were able to influence the throw of dice. No hard data were given, nor comment provided on the statistical significance of results.

All four examples were from a single episode of BBC's *Out of This World*, and could easily have persuaded viewers that science was lacking in its ability to explain such incidents. Greater scrutiny of witnesses, and application of scientific methodology, however, would have dismissed all of them instantly as yarns.

This is not to say the science-based community is infallible. Inaccurate observation, biased interpretation and confused reporting, even within what we consider conventional science, has lowered credibility. Reports on "cold fusion" and the handling of BSE are two examples, and some may consider "life on Mars" a third.

Nevertheless, surely programme-makers have a responsibility to be more questioning, rather than serving fiction as fact, and encourage us all to exercise more scrutiny on technical issues. As an informed public, we can then challenge more effectively the products and services we receive, a key success factor in the most prosperous economies of the world.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD A. PIKE,
Director General,
Institution of Mechanical Engineers,
1 Birdcage Walk, SW1.
August 20.

A softer option

From Mrs Diana Davenport

Sir, The salesman attending to my inquiry about replacement windows was formerly a teacher at a large comprehensive school. The filter in charge of ensuing operations was previously a houseman at a general hospital.

Heavy workloads featured in the disenchantment of both men, exacerbated by weariness in the wake of classroom indiscipline by the ex-teacher and prostration following interminable hours on duty by the ex-doctor. Fragmentation of family life also featured.

Self-preservation, at what cost to society?

Yours faithfully,
DIANA DAVENPORT,
Firs Farm House,
Great Rollright, Oxfordshire.
August 27.

Titan Business scheme

From Professor Patrick Minford

Sir, Bernard Levin criticises me today in his usual colourful way ("Fools and their money", August 23) for being willing to give advice to Titan Business Club.

There are two issues here. One is the nature of Titan's current and possible future activities, which are the subject of court proceedings; obviously I cannot comment on these but I would merely say, as I have said publicly before, that it is possible to sell investments using multi-layered marketing incentives without breaking the law and that the Titan scheme, with its manifest faults, could be reconstructed along these lines.

The other issue is the right in a free society for people to give and receive professional advice; presumably Bernard Levin would concede that right to economists, as to lawyers, doctors

Human tragedy as spectator sport

From the Director of Toc H

Sir, It is rare, if ever, that a day passes without a report in your pages covering the unfolding of yet another human tragedy. Whether it is the plight of the civilian population in Chechnya, the terror of young children incarcerated in a Belgian cellar, or the stabbing of a priest in Liverpool.

Whilst politicians and so-called experts pronounce on what is wrong with our society, and what is needed to reinvigorate the traditional values and standards they believe we have lost, I am left wondering how long it will be before we, the ordinary people, follow the example of the late Rabbi Hugo Gryn (obituary, August 20; letter, August 22) and stand up to be counted on these issues.

Ironically it is often these same politicians and "experts" who are the ones to argue the case for further liberalism without, apparently, any thought to the consequences in terms of the human misery that so often follows.

As we run up to the next general election here in the United Kingdom the main political parties vie with each other to champion the cause of re-establishing moral standards and family values. But can they be believed? The examples that are given to us by leaders both here and overseas hardly leads one to this conclusion.

The media must also bear some responsibility for turning the sort of issues that I have referred to into what one might best describe as a spectator sport as far as the man in the street is concerned. No wonder that organisations like Toc H, endeavouring to uphold and promote through their work the values and standards that others say they yearn for, have to struggle to be heard.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE LYDDIARD,
Director, Toc H,
1 Forest Close, Wendover,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.
August 24.

But is it art?

From Mr Roy Barley

Sir, During a visit to the Rijksmuseum I was privileged to stand before the portrait of Maria Trip painted by Rembrandt in 1639. It is an exquisite work of art and whilst gazing at it for 40 minutes or so I was moved to tears by the breathtaking beauty and technical brilliance of the great master. It was an uplifting, spiritual experience.

Contrast this if you will with my recent visit to the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy where there was hardly a painting, in my opinion, that was worth more than a cursory glance.

I have attended all of the Summer Exhibitions for the last 20 years and have witnessed the decline in the quality of the exhibits. Why so? What has happened to the art of painting? Surely the selection committee have lost their way (if not their marbles).

This annual self-indulgence has nothing to do with art any more. Apparently it is far easier to produce a randomly executed daub than to develop the hand-and-eye co-ordination necessary to understand any object thoroughly; and schools have a lot to answer for.

May I suggest that all those pursuing art as a meaningful career visit Amsterdam.

Yours faithfully,
ROY BARLEY,
Walnuts, Auton Place,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
August 26.

Crown and State

From Mr M. E. Pease

Sir, My grandfather, Edward Pease who, with Frank Podmore, held the foundation meeting of the Fabian Society at his rooms at 17 Osnastrich Street, NW1, on October 24, 1883, told me that the purposes of Fabian pamphlets were gently to rock the ship of state and to promote public discussion.

Judging by your headline (later edition, August 20), "Royal Family prepares to change rules", the society retains the skill 113 years on.

Yours faithfully,
M. E. PEASE,
13 Reynolds Avenue,
Colchester, Essex.
August 20.

Smart cards

From Mr Selwyn Ward

Sir, The flurry over what symbols to print on our new national identity cards (letters, August 20, 23) is proof positive that the Government really has lost its market zeal.

Never mind national and European flags or coats of arms, whatever happened to commercial sponsorship? Surely a radical government should be encouraging the market to compete. What price the Coca-Cola card or the Virgin Visa? Better still Camelot might bid for the franchise and we could all carry around their jolly crossed-fingers logo. What fun! Immigration officers will have scrutinising dated identicard photos and grudgingly accepting that "it could be you".

Yours sincerely,
SELWYN WARD,
2 Newstead Avenue, Orpington, Kent.
August 24.

Business letters, page 25

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE
August 27: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning received the Secretary of the Duchy of Cornwall (Mr John James).

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Butler Trust, will visit HM Prison Saltsheath Head, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, at noon.

Birthdays today

The Duke of Argyll, 59; Mr M.A. Arthur, diplomat, 46; Sir Kenneth Berrill, economist, 76; the Right Rev J.F.E. Bone, Bishop of Reading, 66; Sir Ralph Kilner Brown, former High Court judge, 87; Mr John Carlisle, MP, 54; Sir Cecil Clothier, former chairman, Police Complaints Authority, 77; Miss Inogen Cooper, concert pianist, 47; Lord Cuddihy, 83; Professor Wendy Davies, historian, 54; Sir Rupert Hart-Davis, author and publisher, 89; Sir Geoffrey Hounsfield, inventor of EMI-scanner, 77; Mr Emlyn Hughes, footballer, 49; General Sir William Jackson, 79; Sir John Kingman, Vice-Chancellor, Bristol University, 57; Dr Joseph Luns, former Secretary-General, Nato, 85; Air Chief Marshal Sir Nigel Maynard, 75; Mr Jamie Osborne, 39; Sir Christopher Payne, president, Royal Society of Medicine, 61; Sir Thomas Scrivenor, former colonial officer, 88; Mr J.J.L.G. Sheffield, former chairman, Portals, 58; Mr John Shirley-Quirk, bass-baritone, 65; Sir Peter Thornton, civil servant, 79; Professor Roger Williams, hepatologist, 65.

School news

Westminster School
The school year begins today at the Great School and on September 3 at the Under School. There are 945 members of the School, 675 in the Great School and 270 in the Under School. Mr D.L. Edwards succeeds Mr C. Clarke as Headmaster of the Great School, and on the departure of Mr P.B. Hamilton to the Head Mastership of King Edward VI School, Southwark, Miss F.M.E. Freckleton becomes Headmaster of the Under School. Following the appointment of Mr A. Hobson to the post of Grammarian at the University of Oxford Mr A.E.A. Mylne takes over as Head of Classics; Mr R.J. Pyatt has become Head of English in succession to Mr Griffiths; Dr F.M.R. Ramsay becomes Head of History and Dr G.P.A. Brown is the School Librarian; Mr J.M. Baird becomes Composer in Residence and is succeeded as Director of Music by Mr G.S. Hopkins; Mr P.D. Hargreaves becomes Head of Sixth Form Studies; Mr C. Clarke takes up a new appointment as Senior Tutor. Mr D.R. Hemsley-Brown, Mr B.J. Smith, Mr N.J. Maloney, Mr J. White, Mr S. Hood and Mr J.N. Hooper are joining the Great School staff. The Captain of the School is L.G. Kyriacou (College), and Salome Leventis (Hakluyt) is Prefect of Oppidanis. Performances of *The Magic Flute* will be given on September 23, 24 and 25. The Elizabethan Club Dinner is on October 8. Exat is from October 13 to 28. Commemoration in Westminster Abbey will be on November 22. The Brock Lecture will be given on December 4. The School Carol Service is in Westminster Abbey on December 9. Play Term ends on December 11.

Joan Thirkettle

A Memorial Service for Joan Thirkettle will be held at noon on Tuesday, September 3, 1996, at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London EC4.

Church news

The Rev John Viddar, Vicar, Tamworth: to be Vicar, Walsall Wood (Lichfield).
The Rev Stuart Wirth, Rector, Uplymore w Axmouth (Exeter): to be also a Vicar of Exeter Cathedral.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: George Villiers, 1st Duke of Buckingham, statesman and royal favourite, 1629-1694; Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, poet, dramatist and scientist, Frankfurt am Main, 1749-1832; Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, novelist, Dublin, 1814-1873; Robert John Strutt, 4th Baron Rayleigh, physicist, 1837-1919; Whipple, pathologist, Nobel laureate 1934, Ashland, New Hampshire, 1878-1962; Peter Fraser, Prime Minister of New Zealand 1940-49, Fern, Ross and Cromarty, 1884; Karl Böhm, conductor, Graz, 1894; Charles Boyer, actor, France, 1899; Sir John Benjamin, poet laureate 1972-84, London, 1906.

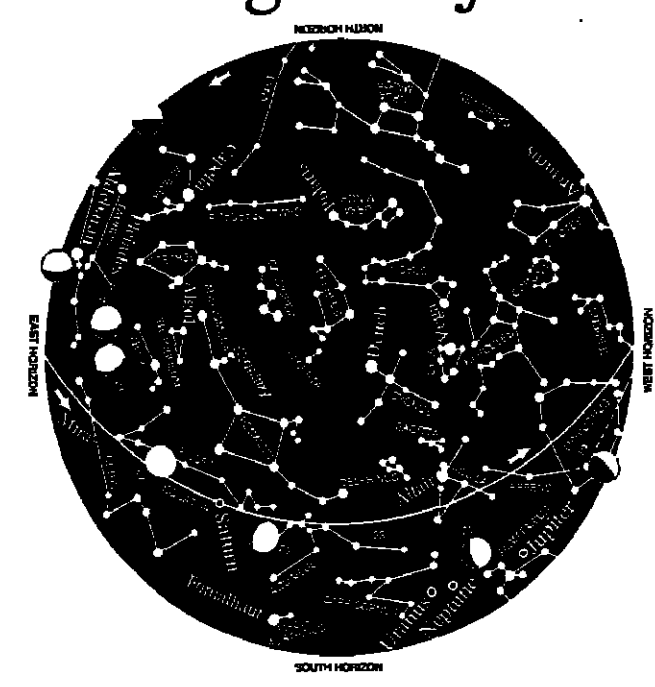
DEATHS: St Augustine of Hippo, Hippo (Annaba, Algeria), 430; Hugo Grotius, jurist, Rotterdam, Germany, 1745; Alessandro Count Castiglione, adventurer, fortress of Sals, Leo in the Appennines, 1795; John Leyden, poet, Cornhill, 1811; William Smith, geologist, Northampton, 1839; Leigh Hunt, essayist and poet, London, 1859; Prince William of Gloucester, killed in an air crash, Halfpenny Green Airport, near Wolverhampton, 1972; John Huston, film director, Newport, Rhode Island, 1987.

Wagner's opera *Lohengrin* was first performed at Weimar, 1850.

Dr Martin Luther King Jr, delivered his "I have a dream" speech, Washington, 1963.

More than 200,000 black people peacefully demonstrated for civil rights in Washington, 1963.

The night sky in September



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 22h (10pm) at the beginning of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich times are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east. The map should be turned so that the horizon the observer is facing (shown by the words around the circle) is at the bottom, the zenith being at the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying notes unless otherwise stated.

MERCURY is close to the Sun in the evening sky until inferior conjunction on the 17th. By the end of the month it may be visible low in the east before sunrise when at -0.3 magnitude it will rise more than an hour and a half before the Sun.

Venus is a -4.1 magnitude morning star in Gemini, rising nearly four hours before the sun. It passes three degrees to the south of Mars about the 4th. The Moon passes to the south of Venus on the 8th/9th.

Mars is a 1.5 magnitude morning object, moving from Gemini into Cancer during September. By the 30th it rises by 01h. Moon to the south on the 8th/9th.

Jupiter is in Sagittarius, stationary on the 3rd and -2.4 magnitude. The planet sets by 22h by the end of the month. Moon to the north on the 20th/21st.

Saturn retrogrades from Cancer westwards into Pisces coming to opposition on the 26th when it will be due south at Oh and above the horizon all night. The 0.5 magnitude ringed planet will lie almost exactly on the celestial equator during September. Moon to the north on the 26th/27th.

Uranus is in Capricorn setting before Oh in late September. Moon to the north on the 22nd. Both Uranus (5.7 mag) and Neptune (8.0 mag) require binoculars or a telescope for identification for which a chart showing fainter stars is also very helpful.

Neptune in Sagittarius sets 30 minutes before Uranus.

The Moon: last quarter 4d 19h; new Moon 12d 23h; first quarter 20d 11h; full Moon 27d 03h.

The Earth: the autumn equinox is at 22d 18h.

Sunrise on the 1st is at 18h 50m and on the 30th at 17h 40m while sunrise is at 05h 10m and 06h 00m on the same dates. Astronomical twilight ends at 21h 00m and 19h 30m.

object next spring, is recently about 5th magnitude and moving slowly northwards in the area bounded by Ophiuchus, Serpens and the equator on the chart, just below the arrow showing the nightly westward movement of the stars. It should be an easy object in small binoculars, appearing as a fuzzy disc against the much smaller and pointlike stars.

There will be a total eclipse of the Moon on the night of the 26th/27th visible from the Americas, Africa, western Asia and Europe, including the British Isles. The moon enters the umbra, the Earth's darker inner shadow, at 1h 12m on the morning of the 27th, totality begins at 2h 19m with mid-eclipse at 2h 54m. Totality ends at 3h 29m and the Moon leaves the umbra at 4h 36m, by which time astronomical twilight will have begun.

As the Moon moves eastwards by its own diameter every hour it moves into the Earth's inner shadow from the west and leaves it over three hours later on the eastern side, though it appears as though it is the shadow that moves across the Moon from east to west.

The chart shows that on the night of the 26th/27th the full Moon will be close to the planet Saturn. The relative positions of the eclipsed Moon and Saturn will change hour by hour, providing visual evidence that it is the Moon and not the shadow that makes most of the movement. The observer's position on

the Earth also has some effect on the Moon's position relative to Saturn and the stars, because it is only 380,000 km (on average) from us. It makes no noticeable difference to Saturn's position as it is nearly 1,300 million km from us at the time. As there will be no bright stars or other planets anywhere near the Moon, Saturn will be easy to identify.

This will be the second total eclipse of the Moon this year, both of which will have been visible from the British Isles and Europe. The April eclipse was relatively bright with the fully eclipsed Moon shining with a light reddish colour, unlike the eclipses early in this decade when the Moon was very dark brown due to dust in our atmosphere from recent volcanic eruptions. This month's eclipse may also be comparatively bright.

As mentioned last month, National Astronomy Week (NAW) takes place from September 25-28, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the planet Neptune.

During NAW some national, university and local society observatories will hold observing sessions and talks designed to encourage a greater interest in astronomy and give those without telescopes an opportunity to look through one. Further information will be available in the press and local media. More information is available from the NAW Co-ordinating Office, Jodrell Bank Science Centre, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 9DL.

Latest wills

Merriott, Somerset, left estate valued at £1,409,577 net.

Phyllis Claire Adeline Lee-Dunne, of Sandbanks, Poole, Dorset, left estate valued at £990,909 net.

Geoffrey Thomas Heekels, of Roundwell, Maidstone, Kent, left estate valued at £1,398,997 net.

Gwendolyn Mary Oliver, of Budleigh Salterton, Devon, left estate valued at £214,311 net.

Martha Maria Magdalena Antonia Morley, of Stocker, Bath, Avon, left estate valued at £1,533,039 net.

Henry Edward Gumbel, of East Horsley, Surrey, left estate valued at £2,547,622 net.

Arthur Vincent Toovey Dean, of Stoke, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,480,218 net.

Other estates include (net before tax): Mrs Brenda May Hitchen, of Ashton in Makerfield, Greater Manchester, £666,114; Mrs Gita Perelman, of Chigwell, Essex, £721,110.

Mrs Brian William John Pile, of Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, £1,066,030.

Mrs Rosemary Mace Reid, of Thirsk, North Yorkshire, £858,204.

Mary Kathleen Spillmont, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, £1,065,166.

Mr Benjamin Walker, of London, NW11, £990,175.

Mr William Henry Watfall, of Ashbourne, Derbyshire, £1,941,572.

Mrs Frieda Alice Wyatt, of Hampden, Middlesex, £769,506.

Mr R.W.C. Kingston and Miss S.K.N. Langford. The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Kingston, of Tolland, and Sarah, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs David Langford, of Thorney, Isle of Wight.

Dr R.A.C. Walker and Mr G.R. Cutting. The engagement is announced between Dr R.A.C. Walker, of Northampton, and Mrs Julia Thompson, of South Normanton, Derbyshire, and Alexandra, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Cutting, of Loswithiel, Cornwall.

Mr J.A.C. Headop and Mrs H.V.G. Day. A service of blessing of the marriage between John Adair Colpoys Headop and Halcyon Verity Grace Day, née Lane, took place on Sunday, August 25, 1996, at Milland Church, Rake, Liss, Hampshire. The Rev Michael Smith officiated.

A reception was held at the Long Hall, Ramster, near Chiddingfold, Surrey.

Marriage
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A reception was held at the Long Hall, Ramster, near Chiddingfold, Surrey.

Memorial Services
MORRIS - A Memorial service for John Morris will be held at 3.00 pm on Friday, 20th September at the Parish Church, Marlborough, Wiltshire. Friends and family are invited to attend.

WILLIAMS - A service will be held for the late Mrs Williams at 12 noon on Saturday 7th September at 12 noon.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE
MORTON - Andrew 1959-1979. During boy - so loved and missed by all - lay in my heart had dwelling and thou hast in mine.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS
HUGHES-LEWIS - Ruth Lilian. Funeral service will be held at 1.30 pm on Saturday, 28th August at 1.30 pm at Rushmore Crematorium and will be preceded by a service at 11.30 am at St. Paul's Church, Rushmore. Friends and family are invited to attend.

TRUSTED - On 26th August 1996 at Knowle Park Nursing Home, Ellen Muriel (nee) Trust, aged 88 years, died peacefully surrounded by her family and friends. A private funeral service will be held at 11.30 am on Monday, 2nd September at 11.30 am at St. Paul's Church, Rushmore. Friends and family are invited to attend.

WALTON - Dr John Roger F.D., B.M.B.S., D.P.A.C.T., D.P.M., M.R.C.P.S. died peacefully on August 23rd 1996 at 96 John's Hospice, Warrington. A private funeral service will be held at 11.30 am on Monday, 2nd September at 11.30 am at St. Paul's Church, Rushmore. Friends and family are invited to attend.

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Archaeologists dig in for a weekend of excitement

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

DO YOU want to work on a Bronze Age farm, paint yourself like an Ancient Briton, or learn how to make Roman armour or chip flint tools? Are you under 16 (or can persuade a child to come with you)? Then National Archaeology Days are for you, whether you're a member of the Young Archaeologists Club (YAC) or not.

Nearly 150 venues across Britain will be offering ancient attractions on the weekend of September 14 and 15, all aimed at children. "The aim of this annual event is for young people and their families to see archaeology in action and take part in activities," said Juliet Mather, YAC's coordinator.

"Last year's events attracted over 40,000 visitors," she said. This year, Marks & Spencer is funding the publicity and promotion of National Archaeology Days.

Sites to visit range from the Stone Age caves of Cresswell Crags near Worksop, Nottinghamshire, with "Ice Age discovery events" to the Victorian industrial archaeology of the Crossness beam engines at Abbey Wood in outer London. Shipwrecks along the Sussex coast are explained at the

Shipwreck Heritage Centre in Hastings. How archaeologists map underground remains before digging is being demonstrated with geophysical survey equipment, the hi-tech end of today's fieldwork at Renfrew Castle in Scotland and Saffron Walden Castle in Essex. The latter is in the grounds of the local museum, where "archaeologists will be on hand to identify your finds and explain methods," the programme promises.

Roman legionaries will be on the march at Chedworth Roman Villa near Cheltenham and at the Arbia Roman Fort in South Shields, and Romans will be in many other places too, from Wandswoth and Worthing museums to Eastgate Street in Gloucester. Further back in time, the Trewhartha Farm Centre in Cornwall offers a visit to recreated Bronze Age houses.

Cornwall and Dorset archaeologists are conducting a number of energetic walks to hillforts, castles, and historic landscapes, while the Isle of Lewis in the Hebrides will be offering a range of events including "visits to many of the fantastic prehistoric sites".

Wessex Archaeology is having an Open Day at its Old Sarum headquarters near Salisbury, including expert advice on pottery and flint-knapping, and excavation of a reconstructed prehistoric roundhouse. In Scotland, the Crannog on Loch Tay, also a reconstruction, offers ancient spinning and weaving, fire-making with a bow-drill, Celtic painting and story telling.

On Anglesey, the "Invaders and Natives" project will issue each child with a passport and map, with a number of target sites to be visited and a prize draw for the most energetic. For those who would rather be indoors, the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff is running "Castle Challenge", where you can help build a "mega-model Lego castle".

"This year's National Archaeology Days will clearly be the best yet," said Dr Richard Morris, director of the Council for British Archaeology, parent body of the YAC. "Wherever you live there will be a site near you offering a family day out with a difference". Information and schedules from: Juliet Mather, YAC, Tel. (01904) 671417, fax 671384.

HUNTER-STEELE - Brian Robert Munn, dearly loved husband of Mary, died suddenly and peacefully in hospital on Sunday, August 26, 1996, aged 79. No flowers please. Funeral Service at West London Crematorium, Wexham Road, Uxbridge, on Tuesday 27th September at 2.45 pm. Family and friends are invited to attend. Tel: 01895 744686.

KASSMAN - Alice, on 20th August, 1996, aged 90 years, died peacefully in hospital. She was the wife of the late Mr. John K. Kassman. Funeral Service at West London Crematorium, Wexham Road, Uxbridge, on Tuesday 27th September at 2.45 pm. Family and friends are invited to attend. Tel: 01895 744686.

MOORE - Conchita, tragically died suddenly on 24th August, 1996, aged 90 years. She was the wife of the late Mr. John Moore. Funeral Service at West London Crematorium, Wexham Road, Uxbridge, on Tuesday 27th September at 2.45 pm. Family and friends are invited to attend. Tel: 01895 744686.

MORGAN - On August 25th in hospital, Rev. Bernard Spencer Trevor Morgan of Seaford, Sussex, died peacefully. He was the husband of the late Mrs. Margaret Morgan. Funeral Service at Seaford Crematorium, Seaford, on Tuesday 27th September at 2.45 pm. Family and friends are invited to attend. Tel: 01323 855000.

NEEDHAM - Nigel SED MA, on 24th August, 1996, aged 79 years, died peacefully in hospital. He was the husband of the late Mrs. Margaret Needham. Funeral Service at West London Crematorium, Wexham Road, Uxbridge, on Tuesday 27th September at 2.45 pm. Family and friends are invited to attend. Tel: 01895 744686.

HAMILTON - Angela, wife of the late Mr. John Hamilton, died peacefully in hospital on 23rd August, 1996, aged 79 years. She was the mother of the late Mr. John Hamilton. Funeral Service at West London Crematorium, Wexham Road, Uxbridge, on Tuesday 27th September at 2.45 pm. Family and friends are invited to attend. Tel: 01895 744686.

HAYNES - Lesley Catherine (nee Masters), Senior Mistress of the Royal High School for Girls, died peacefully on 22nd August, 1996, aged 79 years. She was the wife of the late Mr. John Haynes. Funeral Service at West London Crematorium, Wexham Road, Uxbridge, on Tuesday 27th September at 2.45 pm. Family and friends are invited to attend. Tel: 01895 744686.

LEACH - Sir Ronald George GBE (Baroness), died on 26th August, 1996, aged 90 years. She was the wife of the late Sir Ronald Leach. Funeral Service at West London Crematorium, Wexham Road, Uxbridge, on Tuesday 27th September at 2.45 pm. Family and friends are invited to attend. Tel: 01895 744686.

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LEACH - Sir

Tel: 0171 680 6806

La Crème de la Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586

Bright Junior Secretaries

English mother tongue

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- ability to provide administrative support
- cheerful nature.

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Salary range is £14,180 - £16,410 pa plus £2,134 LWA pa, according to qualifications and experience. For an informal discussion, please contact Professor M A Richards on 0171-922 8009.

For a job description which includes details of the application procedure please send an A4 size self-addressed envelope quoting ref. no. T/ONG/SD/056 to: UMDS Personnel Department, 1st floor, North Wing, St Thomas's Campus, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH. Closing date: 11 September 1996.

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- helping to administer the timetable for quarterly and annual performance review which involves organising a complex flow of highly confidential paperwork
- collecting data and producing charts to support performance review and the Annual Report
- arranging meetings, drafting correspondence and managing the office budget

Ideally, we are looking for an articulate, experienced administrator who:

- is able to effectively organise and prioritise work in a pressurised environment
- is computer literate preferably with experience of Microsoft Word for Windows and PowerPoint
- is numerate
- has the confidence to deal with a wide variety of internal/external contacts
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For further details and an application form contact (quote ref. 22426/7) BBC Recruitment Services on 0181-849 0849 Minicom 0181-231 9231. Alternatively, send a postcard to BBC Recruitment Services, PO Box 7000, London W5 2WT by September 5th. Application forms to be returned by September 9th.

Legal Secretary

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- where you will be encouraged to challenge existing work practices by contributing fresh ideas and approaches.

Cargill is an international trader and processor of agricultural and food products and a provider of financial services. Due to business expansion, Cargill has a vacancy for a first class legal secretary to join a team of well established professionals. Reporting jointly to two lawyers, you will provide an efficient, accurate and friendly service which will include:

- being the first point of contact for people calling for legal services
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- providing general administrative support to legal professionals including: diary management, scheduling meetings and maintaining client files.

The successful candidate will have prior experience from a legal environment and must be able to demonstrate exceptional performance capability. She/he will be highly computer literate, familiar with, or willing to learn, freedom presentation material; committed to accuracy; and flexible to accommodate emergency situations. If you feel you are cut out for the challenge, please apply to the address below including a CV and covering letter:



Sarah Stannard, Human Resources
Department, Cargill PLC, Knowle Hill
Park, Raine Lane, Cobham, Surrey
KT11 2PD.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO C.I.O.

The Chief Investment Officer of a highly successful, international fund management company based in the heart of the City needs a highly experienced, proactive, well educated PA with a mature outlook to run his hectic office. Several years experience at senior level in the financial sector, preferably in fund management, is essential, together with the ability to work quickly and calmly under pressure whilst maintaining a sense of humour and perspective. This is not a job for the faint-hearted and only candidates desirous of a long-term commitment will be considered.

Such an exceptional individual will be rewarded with a top-of-the-range package and the opportunity to work in a rapidly expanding office with like-minded professionals.

Please send a hand-written letter outlining why such a position appeals to you, together with your CV, to: ref: PCA/HD, 11th Floor, Dashwood House, 68 Old Broad Street, London EC2Y 1QS (No Agencies).

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Fast moving corporate finance division of major bank seek dynamic, proactive, confident secretaries with fluent typing, good organisational skills and excellent speech & presentation to work in various areas. Lots of overseas essential requirements are WAW, Excel & PPT for presentation work but training is possible.

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Responsible position for mature, well organised person with excellent communication and IT skills. Must be able to organise and prioritise own workload. Previous experience in a similar role an advantage. Please apply in writing with CV to: Catherine Bickford, Queen's Business and Secretarial College, 24 Queensberry Place, London SW7 2DS.

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A qualified medical secretary is required to work in our Breast Cancer Unit and act as personal secretary to one of the consultant surgeons. Duties will include preparation and administration of clinics, typing scientific research papers, preparing slides and notes for features and scientific meetings. Ref: 773/T

HEDLEY ATKINS UNIT (HAU) SECRETARY
Up to £15,510 per annum

A secretary is required to provide assistance to HAU surgeons including wordprocessing and audio transcribing. The postholder will also be required to book surgical admissions and arrange pre-admission and follow-up appointments. Other duties include typing patients' notes and surgical summaries. Ref: 1085/T

To apply for either post please send two copies of your CV, including the names and addresses of two referees, to the Personnel Department, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, P O Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3FX, quoting appropriate reference number. Closing date 11 September 1996.

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Personal Secretary

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You should have a good telephone manner, and the ability to work under pressure is essential, as is the knowledge of the Apple Macintosh computer with Word Perfect version 3.1 and FileMaker Pro version 3.

For the above post we offer a Contributory Pension Scheme and 25 days annual leave. CRCT is committed to becoming an Equal Opportunities Employer and has a No Smoking Policy.

Please send an up to date CV with a covering letter to: Ms Sharon Pearce, Cancer Research Campaign Technology Limited, 6-10 Cambridge House, Regent's Park, London NW1 4JL. Closing Date: 11 September 1996.

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- MID PA (Insurance) £20k
- Team Secretary (Investment Management) £20k
- Director's PA (Property) £20k
- PA to Head of Legal (Finance) £18k
- Receptionist (Finance) £17k
- Secretary (Marketing) £16k
- Team Secretary (Leisure) £16k
- Junior Secretary (President's Office) £14k
- College Leaver Secretary (Executive Search) £14k
- Junior Secretary (TV) £11k

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 28 1996

Jardine Fleming expected to face six-figure Imro fine

By Robert Miller

JARDINE FLEMING, the oldest established investment bank in Hong Kong and in which Robert Fleming, the private merchant bank, has a 50 per cent stake, is tomorrow expected to be fined substantially more than £100,000 for breaching a series of City rules.

The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), the watchdog for fund managers, has been investigating Jardine Fleming Asset Management, which is based in Hong Kong but regulated from London, since the end of last year.

The Imro investigation is understood to relate to a breakdown of internal controls at Jardine Fleming in regard to dealing activities that took place in the Crown colony. The group is the largest fund manager in Asia and looks after \$22 billion on behalf of clients.

The forthcoming disciplinary action, which has to be ratified at Imro's special weekly meeting, is a blow to the pride of both Robert Fleming and Jardine Fleming. Both groups are viewed as highly reputable and conscientious money managers and Fleming in the UK is a leading investment trust house.

The Imro fine is one of the largest handed down since self-regulation was introduced in 1988. However it falls well short of the £750,000 fine imposed on Invesco for 55 offences relating to the Maxwell affair.

After the Imro investigation was launched, Jardine Fleming, which is headed by Henry Strutt, a former Robert Fleming executive, instigated wide-sweeping management changes and strengthened internal controls and systems.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3905.7	(-1.8)
Yield	4.01%	
FT-SE A All share	1980.18	(-0.57)
Nikkei	20810.27	(+28.53)
DAX	2180.00	(-1.00)
New York	5700.55	(+6.89)
Dow Jones	5700.55	(+6.89)
S&P Composite	685.12	(+1.24)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 7/8%	(5 7/8%)
Yield	5.89%	(5.89%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Libor 6-month	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Libor 12-month	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)

STERLING		
New York	1.5533*	(1.5565)
London	1.5537	(1.5542)
DM	2.2967	(2.3116)
FF	1.1947	(1.1980)
Sfr	1.8569	(1.8683)
Yen	167.82	(168.80)
E Index	84.8	(85.0)

DOLLAR		
London	1.4796*	(1.4790)
DM	5.0625*	(5.0500)
FF	1.1947	(1.1980)
Yen	107.80*	(108.15)
E Index	95.9	(96.3)

MONTHLY S&P 500		
Jan	119.85	(120.00)
Feb	119.85	(120.00)
Mar	119.85	(120.00)
Apr	119.85	(120.00)
May	119.85	(120.00)
Jun	119.85	(120.00)
Jul	119.85	(120.00)
Aug	119.85	(120.00)
Sep	119.85	(120.00)
Oct	119.85	(120.00)
Nov	119.85	(120.00)
Dec	119.85	(120.00)

Pru secures £1.75bn sale of M&G

By Marianne Curphey

THE PRUDENTIAL Corporation, the biggest life insurer in the UK, will have an extra £1.75 billion with which to fund acquisitions after selling its Mercantile & General reinsurance business to Swiss Re.

Peter Davis, Prudential's group chief executive, said that no acquisitions were imminent following the deal but he reiterated his desire to buy a mutual life insurer or a building society. The proceeds from the sale will appear in either the final results for 1996 in March next year, or in the 1997 interims.

Swiss Re, which sold M&G Re to Prudential nearly 30 years ago, was one of a small number of buyers that approached Prudential in June after it announced plans to float M&G later this year.



Allan Leighton is promoted to chief executive in place of the populist Archie Norman

Norman changes position at Asda

By Sarah Cunningham

ARCHIE NORMAN, chief executive of Asda, is to become chairman of the supermarket group and Allan Leighton, his current deputy, will take on the chief executive's role.

Quinn lands top post at Nomura

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

BRIAN QUINN, 59, who recently retired as the Bank of England's director of supervision, is to become chairman of Nomura Bank International, the Japanese securities house's commercial and institutional banking subsidiary in the UK.

Although strictly non-executive, Mr Quinn will be expected by Nomura to spend two or three days a week working for the bank. Nomura refused to say how much Mr Quinn would be paid, but the post is likely to be the most lucrative of the directorships he has taken on since emerging from "gardening leave".

As a long-time supervisor, Mr Quinn faced criticism after the collapse of BCCI and Barings. But the gritty Scot was not blamed personally and remained a popular figure in banking circles. He also stood in as Deputy Governor of the Bank of England for six months after the resignation of Rupert



Just my cup of tea. George Simpson's contract starts on September 9 and runs for three years

Simpson gets £9m GEC package

By Sarah Cunningham

GEORGE SIMPSON stands to get around £9 million over the next five years as managing director of GEC. He will receive a one-off payment of £500,000 and an annual salary of £600,000 plus bonuses and a generous pension package when he takes over from Lord Weinstock in a fortnight's time.

The one-off payment is to compensate for Mr Simpson's loss of long-term incentive arrangements at Lucas, the automotive parts group, where he has been chief executive since 1994 and where he earned around £540,000. His annual bonus at GEC will depend upon "certain reasonable performance criteria to be agreed," his contract states.

Under the long-term incentive scheme, Mr Simpson, who made his reputation as head of Rover when it was still part of British Aerospace, will receive a "phantom share option," also based on four times his basic salary, from which he can make a maximum of £1 million before tax. He will be entitled to half after five years and the other half after five years.

John Stuart Mill.

Author of *The Principles of Political Economy*, 1848.

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Fixed Example: A £50,000 interest only mortgage (includes £295 lender's arrangement fee) on a property valued at £75,000, completing on September 27 1996 repaid over 25 years. 1 gross monthly payment of £290.25, 298 gross monthly payments of £251.06 and a final gross payment of £20,546.06 at 5.99% APR. Total amount payable £21,315.67/19 calculated to include an acceptable fee of £295.00. £100 is the maximum loan to £100,000 valuation fee and £250 selling fee. The APR is typical for an interest only loan over 25 years. Interest may be repaid. Loans subject to status, type and value of property. APR may vary. Lowest fixed 5.99%. Total amount payable £21,315.67/19 calculated to include an acceptable fee of £295.00. £100 is the maximum loan to £100,000 valuation fee and £250 selling fee. The APR is typical for an interest only loan over 25 years. Interest may be repaid. Loans subject to status, type and value of property. APR may vary. Lowest fixed 5.99%. 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Management in £84m buyout of BPMS



Mason: pleased with the terms

BY OLIVER AUGUST

AMEC, the engineering and construction group, yesterday announced it is to spin off its stake in BPMS, the facilities management company, in an £84.6 million management buyout.

AMEC and Pell Frischmann, its Swiss-owned partner, will both sell their 50 per cent shareholdings in BPMS to a newly formed company financed with funds arranged by CVC Capital Partners.

The present executive board of directors is expected to continue running BPMS, supported by new appointments by CVC. Peter Mason,

AMEC's group chief executive, said: "BPMS has been an excellent investment, but I am pleased with the terms reached in the disposal of our 50 per cent interest."

BPMS's decision to go it alone is seen as a move to position itself favourably in one of the UK's fastest-growing sectors already overpopulated by newcomers.

Analysis said BPMS will want to compete for more private sector contracts on top of its existing contracts with government departments. Simon Brown, facilities management analyst at UBS Securities, said: "They can manage anything from IBM to the local corner shop."

The action is where companies upsize or downsize. It's a tough game to play. The Government, especially the NHS, is screwing down the prices it is willing to pay.

AMEC will net a total of up to £38.3 million from the sale of its BPMS stake made up of a £7.5 million pre-sale dividend, £27.5 million in cash, £1.9 million of deferred consideration and a potential further payment of £1.4 million. It said the sale would resolve strategic conflicts with other AMEC businesses and would enable the group to develop its facilities management activities in wholly owned businesses.

In the year to September 30, 1995,

BPMS reported turnover of £364.6 million and profit before tax of £15.5 million. AMEC's trading in the year to date, has been broadly in line with the board's expectations and it expects to announce its latest interim results on September 5.

In another development in the facilities management sector, the Ministry of Defence awarded its first contract to have administrative services on one of its warships managed by an outside company. Amey Facilities Management will receive £21 million to manage cleaning, mail, catering, accommodation and transport services on HMS Nelson in Portsmouth over the next five years.

Daewoo in drive for zero-hours contracts

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

DAEWOO, the Korean car manufacturer, is to become the first motor company in Britain to introduce controversial zero-hours contracts for some of its UK employees — employment deals which guarantee no hours, or pay.

The move marks a significant extension into heavy industry of the employment practice of unspecified-hour contracts that has previously been concentrated in the high streets. The Labour party is pledged to outlaw zero-hours contracts, under which employees are taken on, but remain at home until they are called in to work, usually with little or no notice.

Daewoo's move reflects the company's decision, after its move into the UK two years ago, to adopt a different strategy on the marketing and selling of its cars in Britain — and specifically the establishment of its own chain of car dealerships. The company employs its current staff of around 1,000 on a salaried basis, with no commission, to create a different and less aggressive climate in which its cars are sold. The company is already enjoying much lower levels of labour turnover than are common in the industry.

The new zero-hours staff, employed as part of the plan to double the UK labour force by the end of next year and paid only when they are working, will help to meet Daewoo's marketing commitment to service customers' cars free for three years. As part of this plan, Daewoo will use zero-hours staff to collect vehicles from customers, deliver re-

placement courtesy cars and then return the original vehicles.

Peter Ellis, Daewoo Cars human resources director, who signals the move in an interview in *Personnel Today*, the specialist magazine, says the policy will require a great deal of support at each outlet.

He says: "We do not want people simply standing around, so we are looking to employ mature people who are available for work but not necessarily anticipating work. We are looking at a lot of zero-hours contracts."

Staff will be listed at each dealership. The company envisages paying them pro rata in line with full-time staff. Daewoo has already piloted part-time working — unusual in the motor industry — at showrooms in Crawley, Rochdale and Edinburgh, and has as a long-term vision of only about a third of its staff being full-time, supplemented by part-timers covering peaks in demand.

Opponents of zero-hours contracts see them as the ultimate in the labour market flexibility favoured by the Government and argue that they exploit people often already in a vulnerable employment position.

Last year, Burger King, the fast-food company, moved away from zero-hours contracts, pioneered in Britain by retail firms such as Burton, after facing public criticism for asking staff to clock off during slack periods. The company paid considerable compensation to the staff involved.



Christine Dann, the Stock Exchange's director of operations, overseeing the launch of Sequence, the new £81 million computerised trading system. Market report, page 24

PIA fines firms for pensions tardiness

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE City watchdog charged with monitoring the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling review has fined and reprimanded 15 firms of independent financial advisers for dragging their heels.

The Personal Investment Authority, the regulator for firms selling direct to the public, said yesterday that the 1500 fines against 14 members were for failing to provide the quarterly returns on how they are progressing the pensions review, in spite of repeated reminders. Another London firm, Cradock Financial Services, was fined £2,500 and reprimanded because it has previously been disciplined for the same offence.

The latest series of fines by the PIA, headed by Colette Bowe, is a warning to independent advisers, and a number of life offices, which have consistently ignored timetables or supplied inadequate information. This autumn the PIA is expected to step up the pressure by levying much larger fines on member firms that continue to fail to provide the necessary returns.

There has been mounting concern among City watchdogs in general that the personal pension mis-selling review, which could leave the life sector with a compensation and costs bill of up to £4 billion, is taking too long.

People who were wrongly advised to leave usually generous occupational schemes in favour of a private plan, or not to join in the first place, have still to be restored to the position and scheme they were in to start with. In part, this is due to the various occupational schemes not supplying full reinstatement costs to the insurer, who must pay the compensation. But the greatest reason for the delay says one senior PIA source "is the lack of commitment shown by some companies to complete the review".

Court win gives boost to BAT

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

SHARES in BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services company, began a bounce-back yesterday after victory at the weekend in a vital anti-smoking case in the US. BAT shares rose 10.5p to close at 436.5p after a court in Indiana threw out a damages claim. The ruling spurred a rally in US tobacco stocks on Monday, reversing some of the damage suffered after defeat for the tobacco companies in another damages action, the Carter case, two weeks ago.

BAT said the verdict was proof that the tide had not turned against the tobacco companies and claimed it provided further evidence that its appeal against the Carter case, which awarded damages of \$750,000 to a former smoker and his wife, would also succeed.

BAT, meanwhile, responded critically to a move by President Clinton to allow the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco as a drug.

The company said that it would take legal action to fight the move and related plans to impose tough new advertising restrictions on the industry.

Speculation in the US that Congress was preparing legislation offering tobacco companies legal immunity in return for a multibillion-dollar payout was also being played down by the markets yesterday.

The tobacco companies said that they were unaware of the idea.

Bruntcliffe chief given reprieve by court ruling

BY JASON NISSE

A SHAREHOLDER revolt to oust Mike Wallis, the chief executive of Bruntcliffe Aggregates, has been stalled by a High Court ruling.

The company has disenfranchised its second-largest shareholder, Jersey-registered Mineral & General Investments, so it may not vote or receive dividends for its 9.3 per cent stake. M&G has been disenfranchised since December 1994, when Bruntcliffe said it was not satisfied with M&G's answer to a notice under section 212 of the Companies Act demanding to know who was the beneficial owner of its shares. M&G said its owner was Solutis, a Swiss company.

Bruntcliffe believes that M&G is controlled by two of its former directors, Anthony Hanson and Paul Kaye, who own 13.7 per cent of the group's shares in their own right. They deny this, but wish to join forces with M&G to oust Mr Wallis.

Solutis shares are held in bearer form, so that the holder of the shares is the owner.

On Friday in the High Court, Master Dyson refused to reinstate M&G's shareholder rights and has sent the whole matter for trial. It is likely to be the first test of the ability of companies' draconian powers to disenfranchise shareholders.

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Avonmore poised for expansion

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

ARMED with a strong balance sheet and good earnings growth, Avonmore, the Irish food group, is planning further expansion in Europe and the US.

Yesterday the company reported a solid 11.1 per cent increase in pre-tax profits, to Ir£13.10 million, in the first six months of 1996. Turnover was up 6.6 per cent and earnings per share increased 11.1 per cent, to Ir£0.11p. The Ir£1.90p interim dividend, payable on October 9, was up 8.6 per cent.

Brendan Graham, group secretary, said the results showed the company was "strongly positioned to grow the business through acquisitive and organic growth".

Banks look into national cash machine network

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

THE UK's clearing banks are considering linking up their ATM systems to produce a nationwide network of more than 20,000 cash dispensers.

At present, the banks' dispenser cash through three separate networks. The Mint network has about 6,000 ATMs that service Midland, Natwest, TSB, Clydesdale and Northern Bank customers.

Barclays, Lloyds, Royal Bank of Scotland and Bank of Scotland together have a network of about 6,800 machines, while building society customers are serviced via a network of 7,150 dispensers. The total number of ATMs has risen more than 15 per

cent over the past five years as the banks have seen the competitive advantages of locating cash dispensers in supermarkets, railway stations and garage forecourts.

The value of transactions through ATMs has also mushroomed, from £43 billion in 1990 to £71 billion last year. Banks acknowledge that linking the three networks would be a big step forward for customer service.

However, they point out that linking up the networks would mean some expenditure on technology and an agreement would have to be reached about the price of using another bank's ATM.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lloyd's wins appeal against US court

LLOYD'S of London was reported to have won its appeal against an American court ruling blocking completion of the £3.2 billion reconstruction package, as it emerged that more than 82 per cent of 34,000 names worldwide had accepted the settlement offer. Names have until noon today to fax or hand-deliver their settlement acceptance forms, or face being excluded from the settlement. David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, said that he was "encouraged" by the steady flow of acceptances, which had reached 75 per cent by midday on Saturday. Last weekend's ruling in Virginia had threatened to exclude all 2,700 US names — and about \$280 million — from the reconstruction and renewal (R&R) plan.

Judge Robert Payne had last week granted a request for a temporary injunction delaying R&R in America, and ordered Lloyd's to provide US names with more information. Lloyd's successfully argued that the case belonged in the UK courts. In any event Lloyd's has remained confident that R&R will proceed without the American names, but questions remain over precisely how the US contribution will be funded. There is also the threat of a potential backlash against the US insurance market.

Delay for BA plan

THE proposed BA-American Airlines link-up faced a new hiccup yesterday when US transport department officials postponed "open skies" talks with British officials, saying the "UK proposal... fell so far short of providing the essential elements of an open skies agreement [that] it did not provide the basis for discussion." Separately, Virgin Express, the cut-price European carrier, has postponed plans for a new Brussels-Geneva service. Virgin said Swiss authorities had objected to plans to undercut Swissair and Sabena by up to 50 per cent.

Newspapers for sale

UNITED NEWS & Media is putting 47 of its regional titles on the auction block as part of a new strategy to move out of the South of England and to expand its interest in the North. The *South Wales Argus* will be among the titles to go, as the company divests all its newspaper holdings in the South East and in Wales. It said that it plans to diversify and expand in the North of England, where it already owns the *Yorkshire Post* and the *Sheffield Star*, among others. Shares in United News & Media rose 3p, to 705p, yesterday.

New car sales lift dealer

SANDERSON BRAMALL, the motor dealer, returned record results for the six months to June 30, selling 10,000 new cars against 8,000 last time. But it said its net margin, at 1.7 per cent, was still unacceptably low. The first half-year contribution from Thrifty Car Rental helped to lift group sales from £245 million to £319 million, taking pre-tax profits from £4.26 million to £6.13 million. Earnings were 12.2p (8.7p) per share, as the interim dividend rose from 1.33p to 1.6p. It will be paid on November 1.

Regent bid succeeds

REGENT INNS, the pub chain, has succeeded in its first acquisition bid since its failed £6.7 million attempt for Unicorn Inns last year. It has agreed to buy Crossgate Leisure for £6.28 million, bringing on board 18 cafés and sports bars and taking the group outside the M25 ring. The acquisition adds the seven Muswells' café bars and 11 snooker bars to its portfolio. They are expected to contribute annualised pre-tax profits of £823,000 on sales of £10.3 million. Its shares settled down 18½p to 217½p yesterday.

New Kepit suitor

OLD MUTUAL, the South African asset management group, has thrown its hat in the ring in the battle to take control of Kleinwort Benson European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit). Its plans for the future management of the troubled trust include a capital reduction scheme and a cash buyout for investors who want to sell out of the trust. It is now the sixth company to put forward proposals to restructure the trust. These are being considered by Merrill Lynch, which is advising Kepit's board.

Unit trust sales dip

NET unit trust sales in July fell £2 million to £419 million and the value of funds under management dipped to £123 billion, reflecting a 4 per cent fall in the Standard and Poor's (S&P) World Index. Corporate bond personal equity plan sales were £76 million, unchanged, while overall net Pep sales of £380 million were £2 million up on June, according to the Association of Unit Trusts and Investments Funds. The UK was the most popular market, accounting for 85 per cent of net sales. Total net unit trust investment fell to £616 million (£722 million in June).

CRT cedes control

SHAREHOLDERS in CRT Group, the training and recruitment company, yesterday approved a £109 million deal which sees control pass to Education Technology, an American company, whose backers include Michael Milken, the former junk bond dealer. Education Technology will hold a stake of 50.1 per cent and the deal provides CRT with £100 million for organic growth and future investments. CRT non-executive directors include Larry Ellison, founder and chief executive officer of Oracle, the American software company.

TV Corporation ahead

THE Television Corporation, created last November by the merger of Molinair with Sunset + Vine, made a pre-tax profit of £1.05 million in the six months to June 30, up from £284,000. Earnings per share were 4p (3.5p) and there is a 1p dividend, payable on 7 October. Richard Dunn, the group's chairman, said it was well placed to take advantage of the opportunities which were presenting themselves in the television sector. The company has recently won contracts with BSkyB, Carlton Select and Channel 5.

Zettlers returns to bingo for change in fortune

BY FRASER NELSON



Instants, whose new series was launched by Suzanne Dando, have affected Zettlers profits

THE continuing success of the National Lottery has prompted Zettlers, the third largest football pools operator, to return to bingo in a £6.5 million deal.

The retreat comes eight years after it pulled out of the business, selling its 30-strong bingo chain to Bass for £25 million.

It is now buying three bingo halls from Jasmin for a total of £6.5 million, to be paid in cash and paper, leaving Jasmin with 13 outlets.

Zettlers reinforced its return to its bingo roots by naming Leslie Hurst, Jasmin's owner, as its new chief executive. He will succeed James Clarke

who retires next April. The three bingo halls, all converted cinemas, are expected to generate annualised operating profits of £960,000, on sales of £4.3 million. They were sold to Jasmin when Rank bought Mecca, the national bingo chain, in 1991. Robert Upsell, non-executive chairman of Jasmin, is also joining Zettlers as a non-executive director.

In the year to March 31, Zettlers saw its pre-tax profits fall from £1.26 million to £1.02 million, on sales which dropped 15 per cent to £19.6 million. Paul Zetter, chairman, blamed the National Lottery and its special tax

status which had left other gaming companies unable to compete.

Earnings fell from 12.8p to 10.1p per share, but a final dividend of 5p maintains the total at 10p. It will be paid on October 4.

When the National Lottery was launched in November 1994, its profits were taxed at 12 per cent, while pools and bookmakers paid a national betting duty of 37½ per cent. After pressure from other gambling companies, the Government reduced this duty to 27½ per cent in November, but Mr Zetter said this had been "too little and too late to be of any real help".

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.07	1.91
Austria Sch	17.18	15.68
Belgium Fr	50.24	46.04
Canada \$	2.94	2.82
Cyprus Cyp	0.747	0.682
Denmark Kr	6.45	6.85
Finland Mk	7.94	6.89
France Fr	6.26	7.61
Germany Dm	2.45	2.24
Greece Dr	362	358
Hong Kong \$	12.69	11.89
Iceland	115	95
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.26	4.83
Italy Lira	2462	2307
Japan Yen	182.00	168.00
Malta	0.595	0.540
Netherlands Gld	2.728	2.489
New Zealand \$	2.39	2.17
Norway Kr	10.51	9.71
Portugal Esc	247.00	228.50
S Africa Rd	7.63	6.85
Spain Ptas	201.00	188.00
Sweden Kr	10.50	10.10
Switzerland Fr	1.99	1.81
Turkey Lira	137500	129500
USA \$	1.657	1.527

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Caradon selling

□ Grade defends Channel 4 status quo □ Lenders pay price of dodging risk □ Asda chief makes room for politics

Symbol of resistance broadcasting

□ THERE is something Churchillian about Michael Grade, Channel 4's chief executive. It might be his love for large cigars or his ability to adopt a forceful pose. Or it may be his language when defending the channel against the pagan hordes who would wish to take a giant stipend to subsidise ITV companies or worse, privatise the channel itself.

"I will fight with every breath of my body to avoid the privatisation of Channel 4," he told an audience at the Edinburgh television festival on Monday. Faced with this sort of resistance, the Government might as well give up now. But even if Mr Grade, looking at the possibilities for enrichment that a privatisation would present, should change his mind, the risk/reward ratio of privatising Channel 4 hardly makes it worthwhile.

The first issue is how much is the channel worth. More than £1.5 billion, says Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank. That is three times the channel's 1995 advertising revenue of £448 million, and implies sustainable pre-tax profits of £100 million. Anthony Fry, of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, argues that to maintain the channel's programming standards, it would have to spend a good £400 million on programmes, so cutting the value to less than £1 billion.

Mr Fry, who cut his teeth privatising the electricity industry, points out that every pound saved on programming could add £15 to the value of the channel on the open market. However strictly the Channel 4 remit is written within the articles of association, the temptation to turn Channel 4 into ITV 2 once it is privatised would be hard to resist. Since Mr Grade took control and Channel 4 started selling its own advertising airtime, there has been a feeling among the chattering classes that the channel is becoming overly commercial.

This process would be accelerated by any sell-off. And then there is the issue of takeover protection. Takeover bids are enough of a contentious issue within TV without adding in the messy factor of protecting a channel specifically set up to deliver an alternative. What would people say if Carlton, Granada or even Bertelsmann wanted to snap it up?

Finally there is the question of who owns Channel 4. Is it the Government? Is it ITV? Or is it like the TSB and suddenly some-

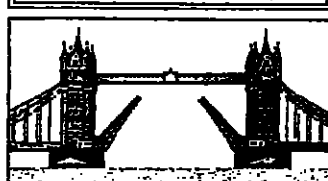
one would find that it owns itself so it would end up with the money. Would it have to pay off the ITV companies to compensate them for losing their annual take-off. The company is one created by statute so the issue is far from clear.

What is clear is that privatising Channel 4 is a political minefield in which the Government will be accused of fiddling with a successful business which happens to deliver what it is supposed to. Given the current climate at Westminster, Michael Grade does not look like he will have to fight them on the beaches just yet.

Indemnity dilemma

□ MORTGAGE indemnity insurance has caused untold misery for insurers and homebuyers alike. Insurers have paid out billions of pounds to building societies and banks for the falling value of homes against which they lent, and then pursued the poor evicted borrowers for compensation. Unlike most insurance policies

PENNINGTON



where the policyholder pays an insurer to take the risk, mortgage indemnity policyholders have been forced to pay the premiums in order to get a loan when they have less than 25 per cent of the purchase price, and to pay for any loss suffered by the insurance company. From the consumers' standpoint, it is hard to fathom how the insurers managed to lose so much.

Now, as the housing market recovers and losses on residential property seem to be a thing of the past — at least for the next year or so — a mortgage lender has recognised that there is something wrong with the traditional mortgage indemnity policy. It may also have sensed a selling opportunity. NatWest has

launched a mortgage guarantee insurance that will not see so many homebuyers hounded after repossession to pay back any loss on their homes. Those who lose their jobs, their health and their spouses by death or separation will not have to stump up for any decline in the value of their homes when repossessioned. It may be not all that generous, but it is a move in the right direction and should cover the vast majority of the cases where an indemnity policy pays out.

As each set of house price statistics seems to bring 100,000 homebuyers out of negative equity, lenders are not yet quite brave enough to risk lending to first-time buyers without the safety net of indemnity insurance. But they do want a bigger share of the mortgage market. They also want to encourage today's first-time buyers to move on in a year or two and have found that mortgage indemnity insurance, which adds thousands of pounds to the purchase price — even second time around — can prevent buyers from moving on. This lender-created form of negative equity

will be reduced by rebates, but while lenders insist on someone else taking the risk it will never be a happy market.

Norman sidles to the checkout

□ NO ONE at Asda is encouraging the thought that Archie Norman will check out. Yet the boyish chief executive's ascent to the chair of the rejuvenated superstore group looks like a prelude to reducing his commitment there from next year.

The Asda story is a classic example of how to knock a basically sound business back into shape. Mr Norman has helped to make almost as much for shareholders as for himself in the process, but future profit growth may be more mundane. At 42, he has therefore become the headhunter's dream: successful, still youthful, potentially available and extremely expensive. As a dedicated Conservative and natural communicator, Mr Norman himself shows a yen for politics. He already claims to have helped to end the Net Book

Agreement and tried the same on medicines. When the EU banned British beef, gimmicky Asda banned foreign beef.

Having cashed in options, Mr Norman can afford to take on politics as Michael Heseltine and Peter Walker did a generation ago. But he does not appear to see much point being an MP on the losing side next year. In other words, he is only interested in running a department.

Future Tory victors might have other ideas. Mr Norman is the sort of intolerable bright spark who terrorises lesser executives into clearing their desks, giving up their company cars and having hour-long meetings without chairs to cut out the chit-chat. Tory parliamentarians would surely insist on breaking him in for five years before giving him a sniff of office.

Go for growth

□ WILD horses cannot stop a chief executive from talking up his share price. William Landuyt, incumbent boss of Millennium Chemicals, shortly to be set adrift from Hanson, is undeterred by the sagging Hanson share price. Describing Millennium as a growth stock deserving a low yield, he has promised a share buyback by the year 2000. Golly. The shares are not trading on their own yet.

OFT examines software duo

Sage's £27m bid for Pegasus may be referred

By Keith Rodgers

THE proposed £27 million takeover of Pegasus, the accounting software supplier, by Sage Group, its larger rival, may be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission after an investigation into their combined market share by the Office of Fair Trading.

Sage made a 42p-per-share conditional offer for Pegasus more than three weeks ago. Pegasus turned down the offer, arguing that it undervalued the

company's trading prospects and the benefits of a merger. Sage is now understood to be considering making a formal offer after sounding out institutional investors.

The OFT has approached Sage to obtain further details of the offer and is expected to examine the market positions of the two companies. Referral to the MMC will depend partly on the way it defines the market — although the overall accounting software sector is

quite fragmented, the companies have more than 30 per cent of the market and are believed to have a dominant position in sales of accounting software for personal computers.

Jonathan Hubbard-Ford, Pegasus's chief executive, said that Sage dominated the low end of the pc market, and estimated that the combined group's share of the more expensive modular accounting software market would be around 70 to 75 per cent.

Mr Hubbard-Ford said: "If you put the two markets together, you have an overwhelming proportion of sales between the two companies. We've had a number of dealers, users and third-party observers writing in or calling to communicate their fears as to what would happen if Sage and Pegasus merged."

Sage disputes the estimates and Paul Walker, chief executive, said Pegasus's figures did not differentiate between sales of licenses to new users and upgrades for existing customers, adding that there is "enormous choice" in the non-retail pc market. The company, which argues that the OFT inquiry is standard practice, said it has taken advice from economists and is "absolutely" confident about its case.

Sage has made no further public comment about a potential takeover since it revealed details of the conditional offer three weeks ago, beyond indicating that it would prefer to avoid a hostile bid. Analysts expect it to hold fire until Pegasus unveils its interim results tomorrow. Pegasus shares had been trading at between 320p and 340p before the 42p-per-share approach was made.

Sage is thought to have made as many as five informal approaches to Pegasus in recent years. It is understood that it last expressed an interest during an extraordinary boardroom battle at Pegasus in 1992, when Mr Hubbard-Ford was temporarily ousted, but withdrew when shareholder pressure resulted in his reinstatement.



John Bourke, left, Peter Fitzpatrick, finance director, and Roy Douglas, chief executive, right

Irish Permanent pleases market

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

IRISH PERMANENT, Ireland's largest mortgage lender, where John Bourke is chairman, continued this year's run of sparkling results from the republic's banks, with an increase of 16.8 per cent in interim pre-tax profits.

The £23.3 million pre-tax profit figure was more than £11 million ahead of market expectations. Earnings per share were £15.9p, compared with £13.8p for the first six months of 1995. The company declared an interim dividend of 14 pence, up 14.3 per cent on the same period last year, and payable on October 24, 1996.

In spite of intense competition in its core mortgage business, loans for new homes for the first half jumped to £1246 million, up from £1168 million for the first six months of 1995.

Irish Permanent has about 20 per cent of the Irish mortgage market. Last week it was the first Irish lending

institution to increase its variable mortgage interest rate — by 0.25 of a percentage point. Most other banks have followed suit with similar, or bigger, rate rises.

According to John Connolly, an analyst with Bloxham Stockbrokers, the most spectacular progress in the company's first-half trading was in the non-core businesses of car financing and life insurance.

Irish Permanent Finance saw a 68 per cent increase in its car financing portfolio to £164 million and the Irish Progressive life assurance group recorded earnings of £5.1 million, compared with £4.5 million for the same period last year. Mr Connolly said: "Both sectors look set to continue making a significant contribution to pre-tax growth for the rest of the year."

The company's entry to both markets coincides with one of the most sustained periods of rapid growth ever experienced by the Irish economy.

Deadline at Lloyds Chemists

By Paul Durman

THE COMPANY that buys Lloyds Chemists could face substantial difficulties meeting the bid requirements imposed by the Department of Trade and Industry, it was claimed yesterday.

UniChem and Gehe, the two companies bidding for Lloyds, have been asked to give undertakings that they will sell several of Lloyds's pharmaceutical wholesaling depots.

Richard Piggott, finance director of Philip Harris, a pharmaceutical distributor that has made indicative offers for some of the depots, said: "The MMC have got themselves into a hell of a mess." Mr Piggott stressed that these offers are based on only sketchy financial information. "The successful bidder has only three months to get rid of these depots. They have got to get rid of them, or else the deal falls."

Service America deal for Compass

By Keith Rodgers

COMPASS, the catering group, continued its aggressive acquisition spree yesterday when it agreed a £77 million takeover of Service America's food operations.

The loss-making US business, which has been acquired debt free, employs 13,000 people and holds 7,000 dining and vending accounts. Compass, which will meet the bulk of the purchase price through the issue of 10.2 million shares at 57p each, said it will turn the operation around within months by reducing overheads and extending its own higher-discount purchasing agreements to the new business.

The company expects to incur exceptional reorganisation costs of £6.5 million, which will be provided for in the current-year accounts.

The deal is the latest in a string of acquisitions which have seen Compass expand its operations across Europe and

the US. Two years ago it bought Canteen, the American contract caterer, and it recently agreed terms to acquire the outstanding shares of Eures of France. The company, which sold its healthcare arm to a management buyout team last December, indicated earlier this year that it will concentrate its takeover activity on bolt-on acquisitions in the catering field.

Compass confirmed that there will be some staff cuts after the acquisition from the merger of backroom functions.

Ron Morley, Compass's secretary, claimed the company has the top slot in the US vending market and is number three in the overall catering arena.

Payment terms include a cash sum of £5.3 million and loan notes of £12.9 million. The share payment will be made in instalments over two years.

Prism in line for rail franchises

By Paul Durman

SHARES in Prism Rail, the first stock market traded rail operator in nearly 50 years, continued their precipitous climb yesterday as the market had its first chance to react to the latest business coup of the company, which is listed on the Alternative Investment Market.

Prism has now been named as the preferred bidder for two more rail franchises — the South Wales and West region, with services running on 1,569 miles of track, and Cardiff Railway, with 86 miles. The deals will roughly double the size of Prism's business, which currently consists of running the commuter line service from London to Tilbury and Southend.

Shares in Prism ended the day 35p higher at 300p. This means they have tripled in value since Prism joined the Alternative Investment Market at the end of May. The company, founded by senior executives from the bus industry, is now worth nearly £35 million.

Prism will have to raise about £12 million to pay for the two new franchises. Yesterday Prism said that it expects to price the necessary rights issue at 240p a share.

After completing final checks on Prism's offer, the Office of Rail Passenger Franchising expects to confirm the award of the franchises in mid-September. Prism saw off rival bids from a management buyout team, from Great Western Railway and from Mersey County Travel, a bus company.

The South Wales & West network extends from Cardiff and Bristol to Manchester, Birmingham, Portsmouth and the West of England. The region generates passenger revenues of about £40 million a year. It employs nearly 1,400 people.

Cardiff Railways runs services to Rhymney and Merthyr Tydfil in the Welsh valleys. Annual passenger revenue is about £6 million, and the business employs 315 staff.

Prism has already attracted controversy. When its shares doubled on their first day's trading, critics claimed the London, Tilbury & Southend service had been sold on the cheap. The company has also had a run-in with the rail union RMT after it proposed replacing ticket inspectors with private security guards.

Caradon selling 15 businesses for £200m

By Oliver August

CARADON, the building and materials supplier, is selling most of its European engineering and distribution businesses in a deal worth around £200 million.

Outline terms were agreed with a leading UK venture capitalist firm, the group said yesterday. The sale price approximates to the book value of the 15 businesses concerned, including attributable goodwill of £80 million.

In 1995, the businesses had sales of £264 million and ongoing profits of £21 million after adjustment for central items, and a normal pension charge of £4 million.

Peter Jansen, chief executive, said: "These are good businesses with good prospects, but are not a mainstream activity for us. Disposing of them would bring added focus and opportunities to our building products activities in Europe, and is in keeping with our stated strategy."

The businesses to be sold include Pillar-Wedge, the steel galvanisers; MBS, distributors of fasteners and bearings; John Lee, sacks and bag merchants; and Atwell, the aircraft engineering products firm. According to City analysts, the deal should lead to a

turnaround in fortunes after taxable earnings last year slumped to £114 million, from £201 million in 1994. The group has launched a restructuring programme in which 1,600 jobs have been lost from a workforce of 26,000.

Caradon has had to combat the effects of the sharply declining domestic market, while last week's German interest rate cut should boost the German market. In March, Mr Jansen gave warning that the group was expecting difficult trading in the first half of the year although he said there was "some light at the end of the tunnel".



Jansen: disposals "in keeping with group's stated strategy"

Speciality takes control

By Keith Rodgers

ONE of London's most upmarket fashion centres could soon find itself invaded by hordes of club-goers after Speciality Shops won a contract to manage the site.

St Christopher's Place, tucked behind Selfridges off London's Oxford Street, houses 52 shops and restaurants including Whistles, Jigsaw and Nicole Farhi. Friends Provident, the insurance company and site owner, yesterday announced that the day-to-day management of the estate had been passed to Speciality Shops, which already owns or oversees several prime sites in Edinburgh, Leeds, Bishops Cleeve, and

Maidstone, Nottingham and London's Victoria.

Speciality has a reputation for its hands-on approach to site management, concentrating on trying to achieve the right mix of outlets for a centre and, where necessary, changing it. After taking over the Waverley site in the middle of Edinburgh, it found the low-ticket outlets were enjoying the best trading and over 18 months took other parts of the site downmarket.

Stephen Jaffe, managing director of Speciality Shops, said the company was assessing the mix at St Christopher's Place, and had received a lot of inquiries from small designer

labels selling to "middle and upmarket clubland". Three stores have already opened on the site, and Speciality is calculating whether bringing in other operations as tenants move on could establish the site as a "weekend-wear" landmark.

However, Mr Jaffe stressed that the site assessment was only in its early stages. "There's a lot of face-to-face discussions — we're trying to find out who's trading well and who's under pressure, and what's missing to make the whole thing stronger."

St Christopher's caters for a office-workers, dedicated shoppers and tourists.

London shrugs off sharp falls on Wall Street

THE London stock market shrugged off the sharp falls of the past few days on Wall Street in an attempt to consolidate its position after last week's record-breaking run.

In the wake of a 28-point setback for the Dow Jones industrial average overnight, share prices in London were marked sharply lower. But the absence of any real weight of selling and evidence of a bear squeeze among blue chips soon saw the early losses wiped out, leaving prices to mark time for much of the session.

After dipping below the 3,900 level first thing with a fall of almost 22 points, the FTSE 100 index regained its poise to finish 1.8 lower at 3,905.7. Turnover remained low, with 563 million shares traded.

In spite of the subdued trading conditions dealers reported "total confusion" as the stock exchange launched Sequence, its new £81 million computerised trading system. Sequence is meant to do away with the need for phones, allowing dealers to trade using a computer mouse.

Unfortunately, it seems much of the information was out of date by the time it reached the screens. As a result, brokers refused to trade, complaining that the slowness of the system left their positions exposed to rival firms. One leading broker said: "The screens were certainly more colourful, but didn't contain much in the way of information."

Railtrack contributed to the early fall in the index, finishing 14p lower at 240p after finally giving up the 133p dividend as five million shares were traded. The shares were floated in the spring at 190p. Prisma Rail leapt 35p to 200p after it was selected as the preferred bidder for two Welsh railway companies. The purchase of the franchises will be financed by a rights issue to be pitched at about the 240p level.

Pearson put on 19p at 683p amid suggestions it might be planning a break-up. BTR ended 6p dearer at 252p in spite of talk of a possible cut in the dividend. Dealers argued the move may be needed to halve the decline of the group's cash flow and prepare for a revival in its fortunes.

Mounting speculation that the Prudential Corporation, Britain's biggest institutional investor, may be looking for suitable acquisitions held



WH Smith was a weak market, tumbling 15½p to 515½p

back the shares after news of the sale of Mercantile and General, a subsidiary. It is selling M&G to Swiss Re for £1.75 billion and City speculators say the proceeds may be used to acquire a building society, with the Woolwich heading the list ahead of its own stock market flotation. The Pru has made no secret of its desire to move in among

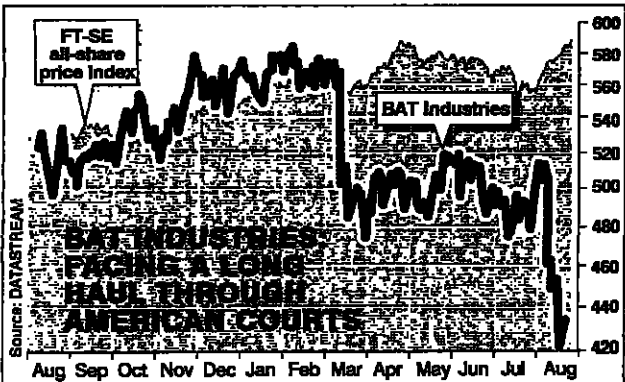
executive to chairman was given a cool reception in the City. Allan Leighton, currently deputy chief executive, takes over the role relinquished by Mr Norman. The moves were prompted by the proposed retirement of Patrick Gilling as chairman in December.

BAT Industries celebrated its victory in an Indiana courtroom where its subdi-

cautious comments from NatWest Securities left Sears down 1½p at 96½p. It says the disposal programme has destroyed value and left the shares looking as unattractive as ever. There is scope for recovery and better value from Freeman's, but NatWest says growth is an illusion and profits have been rebased down.

the mortgage lenders and is now sitting on more than £2 billion in cash. The shares finished almost square at 437p. Asda, the supermarket chain, touched 114½p before ending the session 4p lower at 115½p after news of a boardroom reshuffle. The announcement that Archie Norman, the man credited with the revival of the group's fortunes, is to move from chief

executive to chairman, successfully defended itself against a damages claim, with a rise 9½p to 436½p. But the price closed below its best after touching 440p with the company also vowing to oppose President Clinton's proposals to regulate tobacco as a drug. Brokers say the group faces a long, uphill struggle that could further damage its share price having already tumbled



Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

from the 585p level since February, wiping billions off its stock market value.

Bass fell 6p to 836p waiting to see if its proposed £200 million acquisition of the 50 per cent stake of Allied Domecq will be referred by the Government. Allied Domecq formed 1p to 453p.

Lloyds Chemists rose 7½p to 498½p as the market braced itself for a resumption of hostilities in the battle for control of the group. It follows the news that Lloyds has found buyers for its seven drugs wholesale businesses. Bids from UniChem, down 3p at 257p, and Gehe, the German group, were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in March. Now the market is waiting to see if both will renew their bids.

Confirmation of several bid approaches sent shares of Darby Group up 27½p to 109½p. The company carries a price tag of almost £30 million. Darby said it was not, at present, in talks with anyone. In the past few months Darby has been linked with Pilkington, 2p easier at 200p, St Gobain, the French glassmaker, and PPG in the US.

WTG Smith was a weak market, falling 15½p to 515½p before full-year figures later today expected to show a sharp downturn. Tony Shire, of BTW, forecasts a fall in pre-tax profits from £115.3 million to £75 million before write-offs of more than £200 million.

GLT-EDGED: Overseas losses among US Treasury bonds and caution by investors in London before today's auction left prices sharply lower at the close. Brokers fear that the £2.5 billion auction of Treasury 7½ per cent 2006 may not be fully taken up.

Heavy turnover was reported in the futures pit as investors switched from the September to the December series. A total of 54,000 contracts were completed in the September series as the Long Gilt finished £1½ lower at £107½. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost £7½ at £97½, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 shed three ticks at £103½.

NEW YORK: Wall Street shares were higher at midday, but traded off their morning peaks after renewed nervousness about interest rates hit the US Treasury market. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 6.66 points to 5,700.55.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	Dow Jones	5,700.55 (+6.66)
S&P Composite		665.12 (+1.34)
Tokyo:	Nikkei Average	20,102.7 (+26.53)
Hong Kong:	Hang Seng	11,338.93 (+85.71)
Amsterdam:	Euro Stoxx	560.41 (+1.22)
Sydney:	ASX	2,262.3 (+19.8)
Frankfurt:	DAX	2,558.84 (+6.48)
Singapore:	SEAC	2,171.45 (+1.42)
Brussels:	General	954.54 (+31.82)
Paris:	CAC-40	2,017.99 (+2.43)
Zurich:	SEA Gen	1,778.20 (+2.50)
London:	FT 100	3,905.7 (-1.8)
	FTSE Mid 250	4,428.3 (+1.5)
	FTSE-A 350	1,054.5 (+0.4)
	FTSE Euro Stoxx 100	1,657.20 (+8.42)
	FTSE All-Share	1,030.18 (+0.57)
	FT Non Financials	2,015.94 (+0.23)
	FT Fixed Interest	1,131.1 (+0.08)
	FT Govt Secs	932.2 (+0.49)
	Bargains	262.6
	SEAC Volume	563.1m
	USM (Dallstrom)	206.91 (+0.17)
	USM	1,553.7 (+0.0022)
	Bank of England official rate	5.5%
	ESCU	1.2093
	RPI	152.4 Jul (2.2%) Jan 1987=100
	RPIX	151.9 Jul (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Amer Opps U Ln	100	...
Barbican Health	65	...
Chem Design Hldgs	159p	...
Centimeter Hldgs	674	...
Egypt Trust	674	...
Electronic Rtl	47½	...
Fayrewood	47½	...
Gabriel Trust (16)	19	...
Gall Thomson Env	59	...
Hambros Smir As C	65	...
Hoare Govett	97	...
Life Numbers Wts	12	...
Life Numbers Wts	12	...
Life Numbers Wts	12	...
Schroder Em C C	367½	...
Schroder Em C Wts	30½	...
Schroder Em C	40	...
Selector	68	...
Somerfield (145)	157½	...
St James Place Cpt	88	...
Value Realisation	71½	...
Walker, Crisp, Widdie	71½	...
West 175 Enterprises	130	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Bath Press n/p (14)	2½	...
Inspect Gp n/p (180)	28½	...
Sci Power n/p (250)	50	...
Traffimstr n/p (200)	32½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:		
Firecrest	54p (+12p)	
Pennine	135p (+15p)	
Remitrol	413p (+10p)	
De La Rue	413p (+10p)	
CRH	633p (+9p)	
Ashted	205p (+8p)	
Br Borneo	569p (+22p)	
FALLS:		
Euro Leisure	205p (-7p)	
Br Airways	519p (-11p)	
Br Mohair	125p (-6p)	
Filtronic Com	233p (-9p)	
Euro Dianey	148p (-5p)	
Cale Inns	180p (-5p)	
Hutch Whamp	382p (-8p)	
Orange	195p (-3p)	

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TEMPUS

A prudent disposal

BY OPTING for a private sale of M&G instead of a partial flotation, Prudential has sidestepped the problem of selling shares in what the stock market regards as an oddity.

Reinsurance is a huge, but little understood financial services industry dominated by a few overseas giants: the partial flotation of M&G would have created the only UK-listed reinsurer. With the sale of the whole business to Swiss Re, Prudential avoids having to absorb a flotation discount there is little doubt that the company is worth more to Swiss Re than British investors.

Disposal proceeds of £1.75 billion will enhance the Pru's borrowing power, sufficient to pay for a building society or a life insurer without the need to call on shareholders. The deal arrives too late to be included in Prudential's half-year figures, but the board is

confident that the loss of M&G will not affect the dividend. Of the £300 million paid out in 1995, only £50 million came from M&G.

Swiss Re is paying a fullish price. Reinsurance is near the peak of its cycle having been exposed to relatively few catastrophes, but the business is becoming more specialised and more capital intensive. Today primary insurers are becoming more selective: picking and choosing which risks are reinsured instead of passing on a proportion of all their business. That suggests a more risky market dominated by a few professionals. Add to that the tendency for reinsurers to further reinsure with each other and it is easy to foresee a series of disasters that could send profits plunging. In the circumstances, the Pru was wise to avoid the task of writing a flotation prospectus.

Astec (BSR)

WHEN Astec's shares soared to 165p in June the world had forgotten about the weak personal computer market. Attention was then focused on the price of Unitech, a rival company that had attracted a bid from Siebe, valuing Unitech at 22 times its earnings.

Both companies make power conversion units (transformers), but the similarity disguises important differences. Astec has a large shareholder, Emerson, which owns 49 per cent and shows no sign of wishing to reduce its stake.

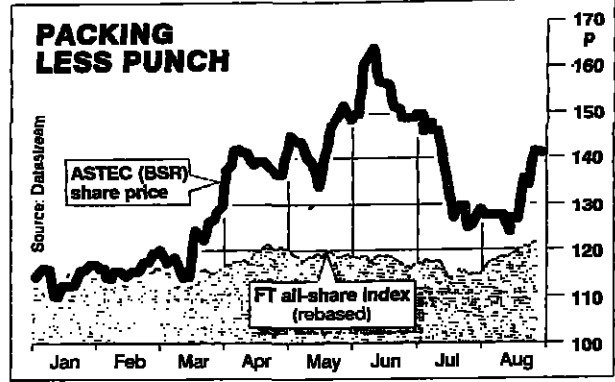
Moreover, the cyclical dip in personal computers suggests that Astec's 14 per cent revenue advance in the first half will slip into single digits for the rest of the year.

That is not the end of the world for Astec, which, in

spite of being the leader in power conversion, has only 7 per cent of the market. Half of the market is accounted for by major electronics manufacturers and Astec has been successfully converting these to outsourcing. But the cyclical dip is a reminder of how component makers are at the mercy of suppliers.

As competitive pressure in

the PC industry mounts, Astec too will be forced to trim its prices. Meanwhile, Astec's cash pile increases — now £38 million — but the company cannot find suitable businesses to buy. If Emerson is reluctant to give its blessing to a special dividend for tax reasons, it can always make a bid for the company.



Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Caradon

HAVING waited for the right moment to sell off the extraneous bits of Pillar, it is not clear that Caradon will achieve a great price. The indicative £190 million amounts to book value but only 72 per cent of the annual turnover of the collection of engineering and distribution businesses. Caradon has spent two years digesting the acquisition of Pillar and has not had a great deal to show for it. A sale is good news but will do little to improve the short-term outlook.

Forgoing £21 million of profits will certainly dilute Caradon's earnings and raises the question of what the company will do with the spare capital. Some sensible acquisitions might be welcome but Caradon has not covered itself with glory in this department. Last year, it paid over £100 million for a stake in Weru, the German door manufacturer just before the German housing

market went into decline. Back home, Caradon was tardy in its attack on costs in a shrinking UK housing market, waiting until September last year before launching a review of its business. The depth of the recession put paid to notions that branded building products could escape price attrition. Investors would do well to have modest expectations as the market recovers.

Irish Permanent

CONVERTING building society members into shareholders can be a headache, as Abbey National found out when new share certificates were consigned to a skip. But Irish Permanent has a thornier problem that is causing some amusement in Dublin financial circles: huge numbers of people are not claiming their shares.

Two years after the former building society launched on the stock market, 14.7 million of the more than 100 million

shares issued are still unclaimed. Given the sparkling performance of the Irish Permanent — a 16.8 per cent jump in interim pre-tax profits — such reluctance is difficult to fathom.

The most logical explanation is the legendary unwillingness of some Irish people to expose themselves to the harsh gaze of the tax authorities. Some believe that shyness about personal finances may leave these shares unclaimed for a long time to come. Meanwhile, less secretive investors are reaping the benefits: earnings per share for the first six months, excluding the unclaimed shares, is almost 14p higher than the fully diluted EPS.

Proud Irish Permanent shareholders will also be delighted that the company has strengthened its hold on Irish real economy, the company looks set for good full-year results.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE			
	Settle	Change	Volume
COCA			
Sep	98.981	Dec	105.100
Dec	105.100	Mar	107.100
Mar	107.100	Jun	109.100
Jun	109.100	Sep	111.100
Sep	111.100	Dec	113.100
Dec	113.100	Mar	115.100
Mar	115.100	Jun	117.100
Jun	117.100	Sep	119.100
Sep	119.100	Dec	121.100
Dec	121.100	Mar	123.100
Mar	123.100	Jun	125.100
Jun	125.100	Sep	127.100
Sep	127.100	Dec	129.100
Dec	129.100	Mar	131.100
Mar	131.100	Jun	133.100
Jun	133.100	Sep	135.100
Sep	135.100	Dec	137.100
Dec	137.100	Mar	139.100
Mar	139.100	Jun	141.100
Jun	141.100	Sep	143.100
Sep	143.100	Dec	145.100
Dec	145.100	Mar	147.100
Mar	147.100	Jun	149.100
Jun	149.100	Sep	151.100
Sep	151.100	Dec	153.100
Dec	153.100	Mar	155.100
Mar	155.100	Jun	157.100
Jun	157.100	Sep	159.100
Sep	159.100	Dec	161.100
Dec	161.100	Mar	163.100
Mar	163.100	Jun	165.100
Jun	165.100	Sep	167.100
Sep	167.100	Dec	169.100
Dec	169.100	Mar	171.100
Mar	171.100	Jun	173.100
Jun	173.100	Sep	175.100
Sep	175.100	Dec	177.100
Dec	177.100	Mar	179.100
Mar	179.100	Jun	181.100
Jun	181.100	Sep	183.100
Sep	183.100	Dec	185.100
Dec	185.100	Mar	187.100
Mar	187.100	Jun	189.100
Jun	189.100	Sep	191.100
Sep	191.100	Dec	193.100
Dec	193.100	Mar	195.100
Mar	195.100	Jun	197.100
Jun	197.100	Sep	199.100
Sep	199.100	Dec	201.100
Dec	201.100	Mar	203.100
Mar	203.100	Jun	205.100
Jun	205.100	Sep	207.100
Sep	207.100	Dec	209.100
Dec	209.100	Mar	211.100
Mar	211.100	Jun	213.100
Jun	213.100	Sep	215.100
Sep	215.100	Dec	217.100
Dec	217.100	Mar	219.100
Mar	219.100	Jun	221.100
Jun	221.100	Sep	223.100
Sep	223.100	Dec	225.100
Dec	225.100	Mar	227.100
Mar	227.100	Jun	229.100
Jun	229.100	Sep	231.100
Sep	231.100	Dec	233.100
Dec	233.100	Mar	235.100
Mar	235.100	Jun	237.100
Jun	237.100	Sep	239.100
Sep	239.100	Dec	241.100
Dec	241.100	Mar	243.100
Mar	243.100	Jun	245.100
Jun	245.100	Sep	247.100
Sep	247.100	Dec	249.100
Dec	249.100	Mar	251.100
Mar	251.100	Jun	253.100
Jun	253.100	Sep	255.100
Sep	255.100	Dec	257.100
Dec	257.100	Mar	259.100
Mar	259.100	Jun	261.100
Jun	261.100	Sep	263.100
Sep	263.100	Dec	265.100
Dec	265.100	Mar	267.100
Mar	267.100	Jun	269.100
Jun	269.100	Sep	271.100
Sep	271.100	Dec	273.100
Dec	273.100	Mar	275.100
Mar	275.100	Jun	277.100
Jun	277.100	Sep	279.100
Sep	279.100	Dec	281.100
Dec	281.100	Mar	283.100
Mar	283.100	Jun	285.100
Jun	285.100	Sep	287.100
Sep	287.100	Dec	289.100
Dec	289.100	Mar	291.100
Mar	291.100	Jun	293.100
Jun	293.100	Sep	295.100
Sep	295.100	Dec	297.100
Dec	297.100	Mar	299.100
Mar	299.100	Jun	301.100
Jun	301.100	Sep	303.100
Sep	303.100	Dec	305.100
Dec	305.100	Mar	307.100
Mar	307.100	Jun	309.100
Jun	309.100	Sep	311.100
Sep	311.100	Dec	313.100
Dec	313.100	Mar	315.100
Mar	315.100	Jun	317.100
Jun	317.100	Sep	319.100
Sep	319.100	Dec	321.100
Dec	321.100	Mar	323.100
Mar	323.100	Jun	325.100
Jun	325.100	Sep	327.100
Sep	327.100	Dec	329.100
Dec	329.100	Mar	331.100
Mar	331.100	Jun	333.100

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Same gift — different party

KLEINWORT BENSON is giving John Major a hand with his speech-making. Or at least that was the plan when the merchant bank decided to spend thousands of pounds on a silver lecture for Number 10.

But now it looks increasingly likely that the lecture, which will be completed by the end of next year, will be used first by Tony Blair. This will be Kleinwort's first donation to the Prime Minister's tableware, although it has provided advisers to the Labour Party in the past.

The tableware also includes pieces paid for by Rothschild, Robert Fleming, Cazenove, and Morgan Grenfell. Hamilton and Inches, Edinburgh's gilt-edged jewellers, is among the silversmiths in the running for the commission.

Hyde Park 'sale'

HOLD ON to your crowns — the fishing and grazing rights to The Serpentine and The Meadow in Hyde Park are about to go under the auctioneer's hammer. The Royal Family has agreed to partake in a "mock" auction next week, in a bid to find a winner for this year's ISVA National Auction Competition. The *faux* lots were dreamt up by James Cannon of Jones Lang Wootton, who won first prize last year for his sale of Manchester United's football ground. He said: "Hyde Park would lend itself well for use as a farm. There are said to be crayfish in The Serpentine, and 30 acres of standing hay in The Meadow."



"Let's try bingo"

SAFeway has caused some confusion among its customers in a well-to-do area of Nottinghamshire. Those ladies who shop were all of a twitter when they stepped into their local Safeway. A sophisticated-looking holder had been attached to the trolleys — at last, somewhere for the mobile phones? No, not quite — a holder for the new self-scanners.

Penny sharing

WITHIN weeks, busy Mark Flawn-Thomas has secured himself a new job and a fiancée. The 42-year-old director of the Waverley Trust, who has been a fund manager with Charterfield Investment Management for the past nine years, has been appointed to run the Waverley Penny Share Fund. He has also just become engaged to the Hon. Clare Lowther, Viscountess Ullswater's 25-year-old daughter, who was Lady Thatcher's PA for five years.

Short of a set

THE battle of the phoneboxes went into another round yesterday, after New World Payphones installed its own version of the traditional red phonebox on Southampton Row. The red phonebox with yellow banding was the cause of much interest as it was put into position in Camden, home to the first ever phonebox in England in 1903. But anyone wanting to use the phonebox will have to wait — until a handset is put in place this afternoon.

MORAG PRESTON



Mark Aspinall, distribution centre manager for N Brown, a Manchester-based business that has made a virtue out of not being glamorous

High street heavyweights check out home shopping

Traditional mail order specialists are being joined by more innovative operators, says Sarah Cunningham

Even if you do not have the time to go shopping, retailers refuse to give up on you as a lost cause. They are putting a lot of money and effort into making sure that although you may never leave your sitting room you still spend money on their goods.

Home shopping is growing fast and is very competitive. Although it now accounts for only 5 per cent of all retail sales, it has enough potential to attract the attention of high street heavyweights such as Burton and Marks & Spencer. Richard Maney, head of Burton's nascent catalogue operations, says: "We think mail order is going to grow faster than the high street and we also see huge possibilities to augment sales in our shops through catalogues."

Burton recently bought innovations, which sells mainly household gadgets by mail order. Within two years, Burton intends to bring out a catalogue focusing on its strong brands, including Debenhams and Evans. Even the keenest promoter of home shopping admits that the market will remain restricted because it does not offer the social aspects that most people enjoy in going out to the shops, nor the fun of looking, touching and trying on. In spite of that most mail order sales are of clothes and Mr Maney and others argue that if quality, service and delivery are good enough, home shopping has plenty to scope to expand.

The traditional specialists — Littlewoods, Freemans, Empire and Great Universal Stores — have been joined by smaller, innovative operators such as Next Directory, Land's End, Racing Green and Cot-

ton Traders. And in spite of the high costs of setting up operations, others are expected to enter the market.

Marks & Spencer is studying a move into clothes home shopping and may launch a catalogue next spring. The company, which already runs a few limited mail order operations, says this is pure speculation, but admits it has had a team working on a project for some months.

The thought of Marks & Spencer entering the clothes mail order market is enough to keep the bosses of established catalogue companies awake at night — and it has already accelerated the pace of change in the industry.

The company where change should be most evident in the coming months is GUS, which is not only the largest mail order company in the UK but also has a market share almost twice that of its nearest rival. The changes will be instigated by Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, chairman of Next, who is in the process of taking over as chairman of GUS from his cousin, Lord Wolfson of Marylebone.

The younger Lord Wolfson shares with David Jones, the Next chief executive, much of the credit for the revival of the fortunes of the company during the Nineties and particularly the successful development of Next Directory. So far, Next is the only high street chain to run a major parallel catalogue business and Mr Maney at Burton said he had been studying it carefully. In the wake of its success, Next

is facing increased competition from operations such as La Redoute, the French mail order giant that has bought Empire and offers through the English version of its own catalogue some stylish French designer clothes.

GUS is a different creature to Next. The company, which has been run with extreme conservatism and has stacked up a cash pile of more than £1 billion, owns Scotch House and Burberry, but its main business is agency catalogues.

Under the system traditionally used by GUS and other big catalogue operators, individuals are recruited to act as agents in their local areas. They show the 1,000-plus page catalogues to friends and family

and order goods on their behalf. The company pays the agents commission and, in return for easy credit and weekly payments, premium prices are charged for goods.

Social changes mean that agency is in decline. Last year was not good for any of the agency operators and GUS came out as the biggest loser. Analysts hope the younger Lord Wolfson will begin focusing GUS's catalogues on target sets of customers and accelerate the move into the direct mail order. Direct mail order has been shown to work at Next Directory and, at the opposite end of the market, at N Brown, a Manchester-based business that has made a virtue out of not being glamorous. Its speciality is selling clothes to middle-aged and elderly women and it supplies sales sizes up to a generous 34.

Niche markets that are not well served by high street retailers and are well suited to mail order, N Brown has grabbed a quarter of the direct mail order market and last year even joined a bid for the much bigger, privately owned Littlewoods.

Although its bid was rejected, N Brown still harbours ambitions to expand and it is well respected within the industry. The company also has an advantage in that its target market is growing: more than a third of the population will be over 50 by the year 2002.

Littlewoods, like GUS, is trying to move more of its business into direct mail

order, but it is a difficult trick to manage. According to Ray Bowden and Ashley Thomas, retailing analysts at Robert Fleming: "It is proving difficult for the agency companies to run the two types of activity in parallel (different accounting systems, different catalogues, undermining existing agents and withdrawing agents' commissions). Meanwhile, end-customers of the agents are drifting to the direct companies who are busy locking them into their databases."

Although much hyped, electronic shopping has had little impact so far on the catalogue business. To date, sales from the Internet and from television shopping channels have been small and account for only about 0.6 per cent of the home shopping market. Verdict research says:

According to Jim Martin, chief executive of N Brown, the big development will arrive with interactive television, which should be free of the fiddly technology that deters most customers from using the Internet or other computer-based systems.

The advantage of user-friendly TV technology when it arrives will be that it will allow retailers to find out even more about their customers. They already go to great lengths to glean as much information as possible so that they can tailor what they offer to suit your exact tastes.

The payoff for choosing to stay in your living room and shop from a direct mail catalogue regularly is that the company that publishes it probably knows not just your favourite colour, but also your spouse's favourite colour, the ages of your children, and even whether you have put on weight.

By concentrating on niche markets that are not well served by high street retailers and are well suited to mail order, N Brown has grabbed a quarter of the direct mail order market and last year even joined a bid for the much bigger, privately owned Littlewoods.

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Julia Carling, TV presenter, promotes Index Extra

BUSINESS LETTERS

Responsibility of auditors still not clear despite Caparo case judgment

From Mr James A. Leek
Sir, May the eponymous victim who brought and paid for the [Caparo] legal action have a word?

1. Institutional investors and analysts will be disappointed to hear that in the view of Professor Myddleton (Business Letters, August 20) they are to make no judgment about a company's future prospects from studying its past accounts, and that, in any event, they are merely speculators. One begins to wonder why public companies put so much effort into producing their annual report.

2. In the facts of the Caparo case, certain directors of the company it acquired were found to be fraudulent and their accounts gave a false account of their "stewardship" — and yet the auditors still denied liability.

3. Post-Caparo, the efforts of Cadbury and the auditing profession seem to have been directed mainly at shunting more responsibility onto the directors (including non-executives), whilst protecting themselves with limited liability companies and Channel Island registration. The result is that, whilst corporate governance may have improved, the auditors' responsibility for accounts is as shrouded in mystery and mystique as ever — as your recent correspondence shows.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES A. LEUK
(Non-executive director),
Caparo Group,
Caparo House,
103 Baker Street, W1.

From Mr Duncan Alexander
Sir, It is useful to see Professor

Myddleton (Business Letters, August 20) say: "Hence modern emphasis on 'decision-usefulness' as the primary purpose of accounts is misguided." Combined with the Lord Oliver statement in the Caparo judgment that: "For my part, however, I can see nothing in the statutory duties of a company's auditor to suggest that they were intended by Parliament to protect the interests of investors..." this clearly means that UK audited accounts are to be of no value to investment decision-making.

It is perhaps encouraging that the US and some European countries are giving investors in their markets some rights to rely on audited accounts for making their investment judgments. Let the market for capital decide who is to be right on this matter.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN ALEXANDER,
Gillridge Lane,
Crowthorne,
East Sussex.

Added sweetener for B&B investors

From Anthony Kilvert
Sir, I cannot imagine what calculations were made by participants in the recent MORI survey taken on behalf of the Bradford & Bingley (The Times, August 14).

If an investor had £10,000 at a "generous savings rate" of say 5 per cent clear of tax it would take 30 years to achieve extra interest equivalent to the quoted £1,500 merger/conversion windfall over and above a lower rate of say 4.5 per cent

Insurers 'slapdash with our money'

From Mr Robert Breckman
Sir, The world of insurance relies on computers and if they go wrong it is not the insurer who picks up the tab, it is the insured.

I recently received two demands for my motor insurance from the RAC. I then received a reminder and a receipt for the payment of the premium on the same day.

A flurry of telephone calls and letters and the matter was rectified. I put in a nominal claim of £25 to be paid to charity to cover my costs, stress etc.

Exactly the same sort of administrative failings had occurred in the previous year when my compensation claim was then settled without comment. This year it was refused.

The managing director grandly stated that they had been taken over by Guardian Direct for £60 million and that they make only £40 per policy and people do make mistakes and we the insured should not complain and claim compensation. We thereby pick up the

tab for their failure to run their business effectively.

Your readers should be warned at how slapdash the insurance companies are becoming with our money. A recent buildings claim of mine was settled with the appointed assessors falling even to check the damage. This time it was Eagle Star.

It is surely time for the general public to protest at being unpaid staff trainers. We pay for service, why should we pay for disservice. Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BRECKMAN,
Breckman & Co,
Chartered Accountants,
49 South Molton Street, W1.

Game of the name in banking circles

From Mr Nigel L. Denton
Sir, It is not for me to say whether Eddie George would better be described as the chairman rather than the Governor of the Bank of England (Business Letters, August 20). However, the Bank of Scotland, which also has a Governor, more appropriately continues to describe and to address its stockholders as proprietors.

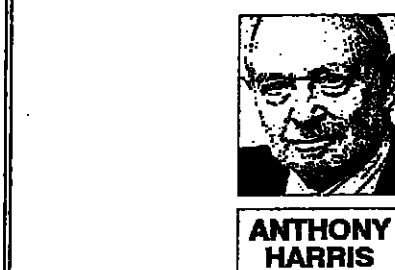
Yours faithfully,
N. L. DENTON,
12 Maria Court,
Southcote Road, Reading.

Because of the delays resulting from the postal strikes it would be useful, where possible, if business letters intended for publication could be faxed to 0171-782 5112.

Own your own?

From Mr Aidan Lyons
Sir, With reference to Jonathan Pryn's article on the company car (August 21) and the general reluctance to give them up, I wish to draw users' attention to the fact that whilst they presently bear a heavy tax burden for this perk as if it was "income", in most cases they are unlikely to qualify for pension rights nor redundancy payments on this notional "income". Like Archie Norman to "own your own" may well be a better financial option in the long term.

Yours faithfully,
AIDAN V. LYONS,
64 Lindon Park Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.



ANTHONY HARRIS

Is EMU going to be able to shrug off the Fiat factor?

The conversion of Cesare Romiti, the president of Fiat, to the Augustinian approach to EMU — "make me virtuous, but not yet" — has not disturbed the holiday calm of the foreign exchange markets. Who cares about Italy, after all? No one expected it to join in the first round. The core (which really means Germany and France) is what matters; and the markets appear to assume that the unexpectedly large cut in German interest rates has saved the cause. But this could be much too facile. Signor Romiti can hardly be dismissed as a prejudiced outsider, and his message, that the drive for EMU is a major cause of high unemployment on the Continent, is hardly even controversial. French voters, especially, will feel that he speaks for them, and may want to drive that message home on the streets.

The exchange market does recognise this. Analysts discuss France's problems at length, and the German cut has done virtually nothing to help the French franc (which the French hopefully suppose was the main point of it); the franc is still hovering just above ERM crisis level. Only the bond market still backs EMU unreservedly. It has been trading for more than a year on the assumption that Herr Kohl will see that EMU starts on time, whatever the Maastricht criteria may suggest: so the convergence of European bond yields remains intact. But which is more credible? Currency dealers, it is true, have forecast at least five of the last two crises; but the bond markets can be not only wrong, but obstinately wrong, as they have shown over falling inflation. This is a judgment call.

Everyone recognises that it is now virtually impossible for France — and very possibly for Germany, too — to meet the Maastricht criteria on time. What the bond market is backing is a fudge, relying on the wording of the treaty. But how much fudge can the markets stomach? It is all very well to talk of "satisfactory trends", but the French deficit shows no trend at all: it is stuck. And how long can M. Juppe persist with his trend-bending efforts? His planned further spending cuts of Fr60 billion were never going to be popular. Now that an honest Prime Minister would have to admit that "it's hurting, and it isn't working", they could prove intolerable.

Of course, a strong spontaneous economic recovery would solve all these problems, bringing down both deficits and unemployment: so it's the green shoots season in the German Chancellery and in the Elysée. Just as happened here a few years ago — after another deflation — the politicians hail every positive number, and ignore every negative one. But much the strongest positive indicator is the past growth of the German broad money supply, never easy to read when cross-border flows are so large.

But that growth is now fading so rapidly that the Bundesbank Council at its last meeting was not, as it was until recently, to explain it away, but of a possible undershoot. Meanwhile, more reliable pointers, such as the IFO survey in Germany, and French consumer confidence, point the way.

The bond dealers could still prove better forecasters than the politicians, and see EMU launched on time, regardless of plausibility. Herr Kohl's political will remains a formidable fact; and in any case, German policymakers seem much more worried by the excessive potential strength of the mark should EMU be delayed than by any prospective weakness of the Euro. So this column is not Eurosceptic in the literal sense — "it can't happen" — much as I might wish to reach that conclusion; it may still happen, even if it shouldn't.

The irony is, though, that if we do get a soft Euro, it is the complacent bond dealers rather than the nervy currency men who are likely to lose money. France's problems owe much less to a mildly overvalued franc than to a savagely overvalued domestic deflation; little cause to mark down the franc. But if Euro-bond, in its new meaning, proves something of a dirty word, watch for rising long rates over the Channel.

Cesare Romiti has adopted an Augustinian approach

By order of the bank, London Secretaries S.J. Dunning, Secretary

DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS			
UNITED KINGDOM CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS			
In accordance with the standard conditions relating to the payment of the dividends declared on 30 July 1996, payments from the office of the United Kingdom Registrar will be made in United Kingdom currency at the rate of exchange of R7 0726 South African currency to £1 United Kingdom currency, this being the first available rate of exchange for remittances between the Republic of South Africa and the United Kingdom on 26 August 1996, as advised by the companies' South African bankers.			
The United Kingdom currency equivalents of the dividends are therefore as follows:			
Name of Company	Dividend	Amount	
(All companies are incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)	Nu.	per share	(pence)
Gold Fields Property Company Limited	147	1.21172	
New Wits Limited	91	4.94868	
Vogelbusch Metal Holdings Limited	99	4.21172	
London Office and Office of United Kingdom Registrar: Gold Fields Corporate Services Limited, Greenleaf House, Francis Street, London SW1P 1DH			
27 August 1996			

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TELEVISION

The new boss of *Omnibus* pledges to keep the arts firmly in the BBC mainstream



JAZZ

The spirit of Ted Lewis, jazz's "top-hatted tragedian", is evoked at the Bude Festival

THE TIMES ARTS



PROMS 1

On the 150th anniversary of its premiere, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* is superbly revived



PROMS 2

... while the mesmerising Evelyn Glennie livens up an otherwise staid "family" concert

Lights, camera ... culture!

Can Gillian Greenwood invigorate BBC TV's arts coverage? She talks to Richard Morrison

It must be one of the best jobs in the arts ... and one of the most terrifying too. You are given a budget that could subsidise a British orchestra for centuries. On a good night, you can reach more people in an hour than will visit the British Museum in a year. And you are guaranteed 20 prime slots a season on the premier channel of the world's greatest public-broadcasting organisation. What more could a cultural missionary want?

No wonder that Gillian Greenwood, announced this month as the new editor of *Omnibus*, is bubbling like a hot spring. If she describes *Omnibus* as "BBC's flagship arts programme" once in the course of our conversation, she does so a dozen times. And why not? For most viewers, the 26-year-old *Omnibus* and TV's 20-year-old *South Bank Show* still define arts coverage on television. And Greenwood has been a leading candidate to take the helm at *Omnibus* since producing, earlier this year, BBC2's splendid *History of British Art*, one of the few television arts documentaries in recent years to present genuinely new information.

So the right woman has been chosen for an important job. But just how important is *Omnibus* these days? As Greenwood admits: "this is a period when the arts have been rather quiet on television". That some would say, is a tactful understatement. In the past few years arts programmes have been marginalised on the mainstream channels. Even "flagships" have sometimes been forced to sail into the lonely waters of the post-11pm schedules. The impression is that the British BBC has little time for programmes that don't deliver ratings. And, as Greenwood says, "arts ratings don't compare very well with other popular documentaries".

In fact, *Omnibus* has averaged "around two million". The figure seems enormous when placed in the context of attendances for live arts events: even Oasis "only" play to 250,000 people. But it is relatively tiny when set

against the figures that seem to matter most inside the BBC: the dizzying ratings for the soaps. *Omnibus*'s figures "could maybe get a bit better", says Greenwood.

Could, and perhaps should, if Greenwood is to climb further up the Corporation ladder. For by the time that she replaces *Omnibus*'s current editor, Nigel Williams, the BBC will have split into a kind of upstairs-downstairs operation, with its programme-makers required to "sell their product" to hard-nosed channel controllers whose prime job will be to ensure that the BBC retains its

Television currently lacks any way of reviewing the arts

market share against ever-increasing competition. What ever else it achieves, these potentially exciting negotiations seem unlikely to enhance the confidence of people making arts programmes, even for "flagship" series. That is why Greenwood's job is terrifying. What does she consider to be the main problem facing BBC TV's arts coverage? "Well, the *Late Show* came and went in that great, late-Eighties burst of enthusiasm for the arts as all-things-cultural. Some loved it, some hated it; but at least it gave television a capacity for reviewing the arts, and for providing a noticeboard for what was going on. That's what we lack now. And when the *Late Show* disappeared I suspect that the BBC did retreat into pondering what next to do about the arts."

"But actually we may be entering a rather good period. There's a new arts commissioning editor at Channel 4, and I expect they will push hard to win the high ground in arts coverage. That's good: the

competition will force the BBC to fight back."

Or else to renounce the high ground entirely. The uncomfortable thing about editing *Omnibus*, as Greenwood knows, is that the viewing figures vary alarmingly, depending on content. So the temptation to ditch even mildly esoteric subjects is strong — especially if *Omnibus* is to hold its slot on mainstream BBC1. "Obviously, programmes about films bring in good audiences," Greenwood says. "But theatre is difficult to treat on television: it's a problem of form, not content. And you are unlikely to get much audience for contemporary dance. Except, of course, if you have a tabloid sensation on your hands, as the *South Bank Show* did with the DVB ballet about Dennis Nilsen."

But if *Omnibus* cannot tackle "difficult" subjects without falling beneath the acceptable threshold for BBC1 ratings, why not transfer it to BBC2, where it could command a better time-slot in a more congenial schedule? Greenwood bristles at the idea: it would be an admission that the arts will never make popular television. "It's important that *Omnibus* stays where it is. BBC1 has documentary strands like *Panorama* and *Everyman* that sweep broadly across a range of subjects. It's vital to have an arts strand on the main channel doing the same."

Besides, she adds, she is "pretty sure" that Michael Jackson, the new Controller of BBC1, is committed to *Omnibus*. "He thinks the arts are important," she enthuses. "It's unlikely that he would schedule *Omnibus* at midnight."

Lancashire born and Oxford educated, Greenwood spent seven years in literary magazines before joining London Weekend Television in 1984 as a writer and researcher. She subsequently became an LWT producer, working for five years on the *South Bank Show*, an experience she describes as "the most formative of my working life". So will some of the



Gillian Greenwood, new editor of *Omnibus*, worked on the rival *South Bank Show*

Melvyn Bragg style be rubbing off on *Omnibus*?

"The great strength of the *South Bank Show* is its fantastically strong branding," she says. "That's because of Melvyn, up front, introducing every programme. *Omnibus* has never had that, and perhaps has been less visible in the schedules because of it. But I don't think there is anyone else like Melvyn around, so we will continue not to have a presenter."

Instead, Greenwood will try to tie *Omnibus* more closely to major arts events. "Big art exhibitions, the opening of the Tate Bankside, that kind of thing. Not every *Omnibus* will

be plugged into an event, because then you are in danger of being run by the PR industry. But it is important for the BBC to reflect what's happening."

Does that also mean that Greenwood will be encouraging *Omnibus*'s directors to jettison narcissistic, clever-clogs film-making in favour of more straightforward coverage of the arts? If so, several million viewers would be eternally grateful. Television, like newspaper critics, should be explaining the arts, not adding an extra layer of obfuscation. "Well, arts documentaries do lend themselves to auteurism," Greenwood re-

plies carefully. "I'm sure it all stems from Ken Russell. And *Omnibus* must attract the best film-makers, who will sometimes want to produce complex films. But there is more room for straight documentaries that take in performance and have some traditional commentary. That doesn't mean boring. Old-fashioned documentaries are often the ones that people most enjoy watching."

On which reassuring note, Gillian Greenwood departs to plan her first series. BBC1 Controller permitting, it will hit our screens in the autumn of 1997. And not at midnight, one trusts.

It's trad, dad, and no mistake

JAZZ: Alyn Shipton elbows his way through the novelty clarinettists and banjo players at the Bude Festival

This Sunday marked the 25th anniversary of the death of clarinetist Ted Lewis, the "top-hatted tragedian" of jazz. With his catchphrase "Is everybody happy?" Lewis was an anachronism in his own lifetime, a man whose novelty clarinet playing predated the 1920s and whose vaudeville persona was rapidly overtaken in the age of television and radio.

The central concert on the first weekend of this year's eight-day Bude Jazz Festival was a tribute to Lewis, and a sense of that anachronism hung heavy in the showery seaside air. Bude is Britain's largest festival dedicated almost exclusively to traditional jazz, and in many of the 100 bands on display novelty clarinets are played as if for real, while clanking banjos pay scant regard to underlying harmony.

Few other jazz festivals, however, have such energetic crowd participation. A band which brings the audience to its feet and happily singing *Down By The Riverside* will be judged a success, even if its rhythm section is leaden.

One notable trend among many of the bands at Bude was the timidity of their rhythm playing, with few emulating the driving drumming of the best American bands. One honourable exception was Sweden's Max Lager Jazz Band, whose uninhibited playing captured the carefree spirit of Preservation Hall in its heyday.

The Swedes did not set about copying individual musicians but played swinging, relaxed jazz by being themselves within an overall style. This approach paid dividends for the excellent Tess Valley Jazzmen whose vocalist, Sue

Kibbey, sang a magnificent a cappella *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* alongside US guest Jim Beatty.

Clarinetist Beatty is one of the discoveries of Bude. Based in Oregon, he plays with a broad tone emphasising the lower and middle registers with a mixture of creole delicacy and fiery imagination. Reed playing of comparable strength came from the veteran British tenorist Don Rendell, something of a modernist fish in the sea of banjos, who won over a suspicious crowd by the sheer power of his playing.

The Ted Lewis tribute involved some of the most accomplished playing and least hackneyed repertoire of the weekend. In an imaginative set, the Original Syncopation Jazz Band brought to life the music of hot quintets from the 1920s, augmented by bass sax and banjo. Their star turn was the trombonist, vocalist and arranger Christine Woodcock.

The final part of the Lewis tribute involved a specially assembled band led by the pianist Keith Nichols. Picking a delicate path between the corny and the obscure, Nichols produced a brilliantly varied set, with clarinetist Norman Field stoically reproducing Lewis's strangled clarinet sounds before fluently emulating his more famous sideman Benny Goodman and Jimmy Dorsey.

With Alan Elsdon's relaxed trumpet lead and Spats Langham's crooning vocals, Nichols's band proved that it is possible to combine impeccable musicianship and unusual tunes with the less subtle ingredients of crowd-pleasing that would have been familiar to Ted Lewis himself.



Ted Lewis in 1928. The jazz showman's vaudeville style made him a musical anachronism in his own lifetime

No need to shout

PLAYING to a full house, a large number of whom were fellow musicians — always a good sign — the New York-born pianist Joey Calderazzo more than justified his enviable word-of-mouth reputation with these two sets of consistently absorbing, at times positively sizzling, trio music.

Backed by his drummer brother Gene — with whom the 31-year-old pianist originally discovered jazz in his mid teens — and local bassist Arnie Somogyi, Calderazzo moved easily between his trademark rolling, McCoy Tyner-like climactic style and a more unexpected, but no less assured, lyricism.

The latter mood would have come as no surprise to anyone familiar with Calderazzo's latest AudioQuest recording, *Secrets*, which, featuring a number of subtle horn arrangements by Bob Belden, frequently showcases an introspective side of the pianist not over-represented either on his celebrated sideman work with Michael Brecker and Branford Marsalis or on his previous three Blue Note albums.

Granted, the trio's opener, *No One Knows I'm Here*, despite being taken from *Secrets*, was an arresting, hard-driving original magnificently propelled by Gene Calderazzo's powerful drums and Somogyi's pounding bass, but they immediately provided

Joey Calderazzo
Pizza Express, WI

ed a highly effective contrast with their subsequent piece. Chick Corea's fluent, intensely tuneful *Tones for Joan's Bones*, a perennial favourite of Calderazzo's because, as he commented, "it practically plays itself".

Much the same comment might reasonably be made about the bulk of the remainder of Calderazzo's selections, whether they were evergreens or the Coltrane flagbearer *Giant Steps*. On all the standards, however, the pianist took an intensely personal route through the familiar changes, examining *My Shining Hour* from the perspective of two keys, and subjecting *Autumn Leaves* to a rigorous, adventurous workout which audibly impressed a number of the pianists in the audience.

The Way You Look Tonight, too, provided an excuse for some dazzling interplay between the brothers, but it was the sweetly wistful original *Aurora* — one of the highlights of *Secrets* — that provided some of the evening's most satisfying moments, neatly vindicating Calderazzo's recently expressed determination to "lighten up and speak in a more relaxed voice".

CHRIS PARKER

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BBC PROMS: A famous premiere recalled; and a staid family concert

Prophet properly honoured

A "NOBLE artist who, surrounded by the Baal-worship of a false art has, with genius and study, succeeded in faithfully maintaining his service to the true art like another Elijah". The musician was Mendelssohn; the eulogiser none other than Prince Albert. Yet amazingly, *Elijah* had never visited the Proms until 1991. But on Monday the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales and the London Symphony Chorus, conducted by Richard Hickox, made up magnificently for lost time in a 150th anniversary performance of Mendelssohn's oratorio.

The last decade has seen a gradual move from disenchantment to re-enthousiasm with the work. Now that the mixed Romantic genre piece is receiving its imprimatur from the likes of John Eliot

Gardiner and Philippe Herreweghe — well, it must be all right.

Herreweghe's 1993 recording of *Elijah* is, in fact, one of the few which revert to Mendelssohn's original use of soloist groups to provide textual contrast with the massed choruses. England, where the work has been such a mainstay of the amateur choral society, has been reluctant to yield up a single choral line. But Richard Hickox faithfully shared out *Elijah*'s solo parts thrillingly among all of ten singers.

The most obvious coup was the sudden luminousness of three angel voices, literally from on high, as *Lift thine eyes* had the entire audience raising theirs, in wonderment, to the gallery. It was a

Elijah
Albert Hall/Radio 3

hushed quartet (Susan Gritton, Christine Roderick, Williams) which sang *Cast thy burden upon the Lord* accompanied by a mere breath of strings. And Gritton and Cairns were joined by Janice Watson and Ingrid Attrot to lead the chorus of Seraphim.

Each of these ensemble appearances emphasised the vulnerable humanity of the story. In the midst of the great orchestral and choral numbers, it was the still small voices that haunted us: this was very much the journey of the individual soul through its dark night and its wilderness, and on to redemption.

And in the voice of Bryn Terfel, this was quite some soul. When Welsh non-con-

formist fervour and linguistic energy meet a burgeoning Wagner hero, the result is formidable. Smiling as Anthony Rolfe Johnson (Obadiah) sang his *If with all your heart*, as if he were itching to sing it himself, Terfel went on to shout the odds at Ahab and to egg on the pagans to shout louder for Baal.

Jean Rigby was the wise, mezzo Angel that Elgar was to remember, gently guiding the prophet — then donning a silk wrap over her angelic white for her next incarnation as Ahab's imperious Queen. The chorus (both of them) have the last word: the buoyancy of their performance, within Hickox's robust and perfectly calculated tempos, still remained the glory of this celebratory night.

HILARY FINCH

Not the best way to start

Family Prom
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Rodeo are also pieces that engage young minds: bright colours; jolly rhythms; strong narrative interest. But it was left to parents to supply the linking stories. Not good enough, I'm afraid, for a "family" concert.

Luckily, Evelyn Glennie's mesmeric percussion virtuosity requires no preamble. First she appeared, dazzling in gold lame, at the back of the arena to play *Reaching Out*, a frenetic but superbly cogent multi-bongo solo by the young Scottish composer David Horne.

Then she took a conventional position

at the front of the orchestra for the premiere of Geoffrey Burgon's percussion concerto, *City Adventures*. This was more problematic: jazz-inspired, but often surprisingly brutal and grumpy.

The first movement, *A Meeting with Charlie Mingus*, throbbed on a series of pizzicato-bass riffs, with Glennie kicking the ensemble along from an Everest of a drum-kit. Mellow marimba and vibraphone writing coloured the slow movement, but its lyrical impulse seemed strangely restricted. More successful was the finale, *City Dances*. Built on an insistently syncopated single pitch, it incorporated exciting flares-up for brass and drums before fading into a nocturnal coda of beguiling descending scales.

Glennie played it with great flair. Sales of junior drum-kits will soar this week. But I doubt whether this concert did much else to advance classical music's cause among the young.

RICHARD MORRISON



■ EDINBURGH

At the Traverse the parade of new plays continues with *Entertaining Angels*, about a broken family

■ EDINBURGH

...and *Viper's Opium*, which traces the start of a relationship that ripens quickly from the platonic

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ EDINBURGH

Fans of Richard Strauss enjoy a fascinating reconstruction of an early film of *Der Rosenkavalier*

■ TOMORROW

A Tuscan stunner? Bertolucci's latest movie, *Stealing Beauty*, is reviewed by Geoff Brown



Grant Gillespie, Astrid Azurdia, Alicia Hood, Karl Pittom, Lucy McLellan, Gabriel Quigley and Timothy Webster in *Entertaining Angels*

Subtlety in the shadows

THEATRE: A trick and a treat, sorry angels and spiritual confusion — three plays at the Traverse

When I was very young I read a comic about a hero whose magic candle, when lit, spread darkness. This memorable image came back to me during *Here Lies Henry*, which introduces an extraordinary lighting effect about 20 minutes into the show.

Daniel MacIvor, co-creator and gawky, seemingly uneasy performer, is standing as he often does centre stage, kidding us about his life. Sometimes he has been fully lit, standing in a large square, but now the darkness has crept inwards and only the upper part of his body is clearly visible. And what is surely a pale shadow appears at his feet — the outline of his body apparently made of light, spreading out across the darkness like something painted by

Magritte. How this is done becomes evident when it happens again on a wall, but that does not wipe out the power of its first appearance.

Uncommon creative quality informs all areas of the Toronto-based Da Da Kamera show — Jan Komarek's lighting, Richard Feren's sound and the sensitive direction by co-creator Daniel Brooks.

MacIvor presents the life of Henry Tom Gallery, who tells us that he is a liar but deviously blurs out truths. Has he burnt down the family home? Is a lover dead in the next room? His narrative loops back, highlighting incidents mentioned first in passing and personifying Hope, Love, Beauty — "Reality with



her alarm-clock earrings" — on the way to its target, our unavoidable, unwelcome death. MacIvor's performance, deceptively casual, is as strong and elegant as tempered steel. The production won a Fringe first.

The next two shows won

praise and awards elsewhere but proved a disappointment. In *LookOut Theatre's Entertaining Angels*, by Nicola McCartney and Lucy McLellan, a more than average dysfunctional family is suffering the consequence of the mother's departure from Liverpool for Ireland 15 years earlier. She was Catholic, her husband communist. One daughter hears loud exhalations that may presage supernatural visions, the other daughter is anorexic. The wayward son, believing his mother dead, beats up the cousin who brings news. The writing ranges between the simplistic and the vague, and characters pour out their lives at the drop of a question. None of the

actors forget their lines but one in particular (the father) never becomes credible.

The *Spirit* (Voyager Productions) arranges six of Joe Pintauro's short plays around three others that show a man's illness, his death from AIDS and a visit to his surviving lover by the dead man's father. Two priests try to catch birds that have flown into their church; a troubled dude, well played by Tom Gottlieb, cannot keep an erection with a woman he loves. Guilt, remorse, the death of Pablo Neruda: moments and performances are affecting, and Matt Tauber makes good use of white gauze to separate scenes. But Pintauro's glancing approach to his material is over-subtle and the gathering of this particular group of plays lacks logic.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Send in the clowns, then the puppets

FRINGE

Frankly the Fringe, hitting 50 this year, is distinctly thin if it's terrific plays you are after. However, surprise hits have popped up. The hottest tickets in town are for a Russian clown show and an American ventriloquist act.

Slava Polunin's *Snowshow* (Assembly Rooms) is a sweet and funny if fractionally sentimental double act. It keeps at least one foot planted in the familiar routines of the Big Top, but this is classy and profound clowning. Polunin and his hand-picked, saggy-faced sidekick Angela de Castro have consummate comic timing as they shamble about signing night.

They also have delightful personal touches. Polunin's red shoes are shuffling slippers (if not small mammals) made of mopheads. On a grander scale, these clowns have Beckertian bleakness. A small tramp in an empty galaxy slips a noose around his neck only to discover, yanking at the other end, that he is inescapably (or life-savings) tied to his fellow.

Snowshow pictures fools in winter: ultimately alone, old, out in the cold. Polunin is, implicitly, the King Lear of clowns, his distracted hair a windswept cloud. In a dazzling *coup de théâtre*, he is finally engulfed in a vast blizzard, a million fragments of paper blowing out across the auditorium, spinning towards us in a blaze of light, twirling softly like moths.

Over in the Beck's Famous (and horrendously smoky) Spiegeltent, David Strassman has even snazzier technological tricks up his sleeve. He is not only a flawless ventriloquist with quick-witted jokes. In the closing minutes, his dummies and soft toys reveal that they have lives of their own. These animatronic puppets are dumbfounding. Untouched by human hands, a trio of rubbery baby brontosaurus give us a tiny rock concert, lip-synching more convincingly than most human beings to *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

Even when Strassman is manually operating his puppets, they prove shockingly sophisticated. Eddie the small-brained Texan teddy, bashfully burying his nose in his tummy and making us all go soppy, turns out to be a calculating little beast and not so innocent about his nether regions. Meanwhile, Strass-

man's boy-mannequin Chuck is scandalously rude, a swivel-eyed, foul-mouthed psycho. Perfectly horrid. Actually though, the scariest thing was the audience. Having gone all gooey over Eddie, they transmogrified into a stamping mob when a man in the front row — having been entertainingly savaged by Chuck — refused to hug the teddy.

In terms of Fringe drama, *Starving Artists' bare-staged two-hander Viper's Opium* is worth catching at The Traverse. Writer Godfrey Hamilton has hit upon a structurally simple yet emotionally complicated story which traces the platonic, then passionate, then damaged friendship between a shy gay

man (Mark Pinkosh's Curtis) and an earthy, sexually open but also shaky woman (Kathryn Howden's Cricket). Both are reformed alcoholics on the wrong side of the tracks in Tinseltown. Howden and Pinkosh are a comic duo and a touching couple: she buxom and big-mouthed with a touch of Miss Piggy, he skinny, nervy and starting. Their romance is too cute at times but is sexily choreographed and beautifully observed as Curtis struggles desperately against his desire to touch Cricket. Pinkosh, although teetering on mannered theatricality, is absorbing, punctuating monologues with sinuous fingers. Hamilton, when not waxing poetic, has a sharp ear for the inarticulacies of manic talkers.

KATE BASSETT



Cricket (Kathryn Howden) and Curtis (Mark Pinkosh) become more than just good friends in *Viper's Opium*

Celluloid wears better than plastic on stage

WHETHER it was by chance or good planning, much of Saturday in Edinburgh was devoted to Strauss and Schoenberg, and the juxtaposition of *Der Rosenkavalier* (1911) and *Pierrot Lunaire* (1912) said a lot about the various roads music has travelled this century.

It was not Strauss's opera, but Robert Wiene's 1926 film that was given two showings at the Festival Theatre. Strauss needed a lot of persuading to have any part of the project, and was plainly in it for the money: he cobbled together goblets of the opera for full orchestra to accompany Hofmannsthal's revised screenplay, filling in the gaps with earlier occasional pieces.

Strauss scholars have found no evidence of his having any hand in the chamber version of the score, which was of course much more widely used, and indeed played by Ensemble 13

under Manfred Reichert last Saturday.

It's not a great film, but of considerable interest to those who know the opera. The Marschallin's absent husband features prominently: there's an epic battle for him to win before he rides back to see what his wife is up to in Vienna (not a lot, apart from some fiery kisses on the shoulder), and there are some charming locations, from Schönbrunn to a tumbledown country estate in Carinthia for Ochs. Ironically enough, acting honours are decisively taken by the singer Michael Bohnen, a famous Ochs of the day: Huguette Duflös does heavy-breathing and flutters her eyelashes attractively as the Marschallin; Jacques Catelain, the male Octavian, seems most at ease when disguised as Mariandl — he's a

OPERA

**Rosenkavalier/
Pierrot Lunaire**
Edinburgh

dead ringer for Jack Lemmon's Daphne in *Some Like It Hot*.

Timeless work, by Berndt Heller in the film archives of Prague, Vienna, London and Berlin has produced the fullest version to be shown in recent times, but it is still without the ending: the Field Marshall glowers at the *fête champêtre* that replaces the seedy inn of the opera; and there it breaks off, with about 15 minutes still to go.

But Heller has examined cue sheets and rehearsal scores, and this enabled Reichert and his lively players to demonstrate that Strauss took his coddling seriously: it all fits together neatly. A fascinating afternoon.

Pierrot came to the Royal Lyceum in a staging from the Teatro Stabile di Parma. Maddalena Crippa has every-

thing — perfect German, a wide range of tone colour — for Schoenberg's speech-song cycle, which was set almost at night by the use of voice amplification; her carollings and swoonings consistently drowned the chamber ensemble stuck in the wings. This artificial sound picture was not, to put it mildly, quite what Schoenberg had in mind.

The second part was devoted to Italian popular songs from the inter-war years, in which Crippa proved to be the Elisabeth Schwarzkopf of shanties: not a phrase went by without having something "done" to it — rhythm, melody, text, all were submerged in "art".

What these innocent numbers had done to deserve to be trampled to death so brutally, I know not. A dispiriting evening.

RODNEY MILNES

Even the simple is hard

CONCERT

György Kurtág
Usher Hall

GYÖRGY KURTÁG was all the more welcome in the Usher Hall in that the previous 13 concerts at the Edinburgh Festival had been devoted to nothing but Viennese music, and the next 13 would be devoted to much the same thing.

Happily, Kurtág's background is quite different. As the opening series of piano solos and duets clearly indicated, his roots grow directly out of Bartók and the Hungarian tradition. Consisting of 16 little pieces selected from his hundred or so *Jarekok* (or "Games"), mixed with a little Bach arranged for four hands and performed by the composer with Marta Kurtág, it was as convincing a demonstration as any of the kinship of brevity and wit.

Husband-and-wife domesticity must be considered fair game for a public concert: remedial privacy might not be. Certainly, there is some-

thing very authentically Samuel Beckett in the experience of hearing Idiko Monyok struggling to articulate (in Hungarian) that writer's *What is the Word*. Certainly, also, there is something very moving about an actress rendered speechless by a traffic accident returning to the stage after her partial recovery through song.

But there is also something intrusive about observing her therapy, with the composer cueing just about her every word from an institutional upright piano, used as an instrument in the interpretation of a text. Whatever one's reaction, though, the rudimentary vocal line and the naked simplicity of the piano accom-

paniment most effectively offset the sophistication of the main item in the concert.

Notorious for its difficulty since its partial first performance at the Holland Festival last year, *Songs of Despair and Sorrow* for double chorus and instrumental ensemble is a challenging and masterful work. Wisely, having assembled and rehearsed the Edinburgh Festival Singers specifically for this first complete performance, David Jones conducted it twice in the one concert.

The first impression was how bleak was the reflection of the melancholy of the Russian texts. The second was how beautiful the choral sound was, and how apt the colouring of accordions and harmoniums and the miscellaneous strings, brass and percussion of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

GERALD LARNER

Stars are born

THE TIMES
THEATRE
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The music of György Kurtág brought intense variation in a wide range of voices to the Usher Hall

CHOICE 1

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THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE 1

Curtain up on the London New Play Festival, with a new promise to be entertaining

THEATRE 2

In Richmond, Dinsdale Landen recreates one of the great performances of his career

Escape from stale beer and boredom

THEATRE: The London New Play Festival is exchanging pub venues for studio stages, says Andy Lavender. Plus, James Saunders revived

There must be more to new theatre than sitting in a room above a pub knowing that the first act lasts an hour-and-a-half, feeling bored and desperate to get down to the bar. An engaging opinion, the more so because it comes not from some enemy of the theatre but from the director of the London New Play Festival.

“A lot of work is much too staid. We have to look at new ways to create entertainment.”

Phil Setren co-founded the festival eight years ago and is responsible for its largest incarnation to date, which runs for five weeks from Monday. This year, for the first time, the festival has left the pub theatres and taken up temporary residence in three larger London venues — the Riverside Studios, the Young Vic Studio and the Lyric Theatre Hamersmith Studio — which all have reputations for fostering new work. But Setren's ambitions do not stop there.

“We have to look at new ways of making entertainment,” he says. “A lot of new playwrighting has become terribly staid and has fallen into the trap of being like the institutional and repertory theatres: well-made, two-hour plays with an interval where you can order your scotch and jam. Our programme looks at new ways of approaching playwrighting.”

With that bold endeavour in mind, Setren commissioned three shows which pitch young playwrights together with artists from other media. Anthony Neilson's *Hoover Bag* is an enticing prospect. Neilson acquired a certain notoriety when his play *Penetrator* appeared at the Royal Court. He teams up here with the installation artist Jo Jolson. Their brief, according to Setren, was to come up with “modern horror” for the theatre. The environment is a council flat inhabited by an elderly woman, which

is kept clean and insect-free by fly-lights. The only thing on stage is a fridge that has become a shrine to her dead son.

On a rather different note, one presumes, *Gay Marriage in Suburbia* is a collaboration between three gay and lesbian writers and a DJ. Setren commissioned a triptych of 20-minute pieces for gay couples to be married in Hawaii. A more sombre theme underlies Sara Clifford's *Tongue Tied*, a piece about the persecution of writers which also features various experiments with film.

Setren's expanded notion of “new theatre” offers the festival a chance to mark out its distinctiveness. The occasional writer might still feel that directors, actors, designers and composers are untrustworthy types who dilute the playwright's vision. Everyone else knows that during the past decade, some of the more interesting new work in the theatre has been developed on the rehearsal room floor, with the writer just one among a team of collaborators.

That said, some of the shows in this year's festival pay a more conventional homage to the wordsmith. *Scenes From Paradise* by Michael Wall, who wrote the award-winning *Amongst Barbarians*, is a comedy about two Australians in search of a good time in Thailand. Anita Sullivan's *As I Was* is a “savage” fairy-tale in which *HRH*, lost in the woods, chances upon a couple of storytellers. Setren himself directs John Doonan's *Hard Shoulder*, which deals with road rage and features 16 characters (played by a cast of nine) along with the ubiquitous film inserts.

Setren claims that besides showcasing work regarded elsewhere as “dan-



Motor mania: several established theatres regarded John Doonan's *Hard Shoulder*, a play about road rage, as too contentious for them

gerous” (*Hard Shoulder* was turned down by various theatres in Doonan's home city, Manchester), the festival offers playwrights a speedy realisation of their scripts. “We can programme new work faster than established venues where it might take you two years to get your play on,” he says. “Playwrights regularly talk about their material becoming dated before their work has been produced. In the New Play Festival we might receive your play in March and stage it by September.”

But might this prove a pitfall? After all, plays which strive too hard to be “relevant” one week can quickly seem irrelevant the next. “We make sure that

we're not just presenting journalism on the stage,” Setren responds. “For example *The Cricket Test*, by James Waddington, is based on a news story about a Nigerian woman who built a hut in her garden in Yorkshire. The play is based on a real event — but the reason we are producing it is because of the strength of its characters.”

The festival also includes rehearsed readings of four new plays and a series of discussions and workshops.

“Our job is continually to redefine what is new about playwrighting,” says Setren. “You want to come to the New Play Festival and see theatre that you cannot see on stages everywhere else.”

Further festival details: 0171-209 3326

In praise of hurt feelings

Bodies Orange Tree, Richmond

Each of the husbands had an affair with the other's wife. So there is apprehension in the air as Landen's Mervyn and Carole Nimmern's Anne prepare to feed Stuart Fox's David and Liz Crowther's Helen; and it is increased by the discovery that their former friends now follow an American psychoanalyst of B.F. Skinnerish bent.

Despite his title, Saunders is not very interested in his characters' love lives. Even in the second act, when dinner is over, the communal atmo-

sphere has little of the murky density that Pinter or Gray would have given it. Those old adulteries are simply the background to what does, however, become a remarkably urgent debate about the meaning of suffering. If we could abolish it, as maybe we can, should we do so?

With their shrink's help, David and Helen have achieved serenity, but at cost to themselves. At times they remind you of sleek rats in a behaviourist's cage, content because they have reconciled themselves to being little more than a series of physical sensations, a set of responses automatically made. Beside them, Mervyn comes across as a floundering compound of hang-ups and hopeless hopes, an emotional cripple who is nevertheless capable of occasional exhilaration.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

EDINBURGH

In the first of today's events (Queen's Hall, 11am), the acclaimed German pianist Christian Zacherias plays works by Debussy and Beethoven. This is followed by the Lunchtime Talk (Queen's Hall, 1.10pm) and by Festival Highlights (Edinburgh Festival Theatre, 5pm). The subject of both events is the playwright Bertolt Brecht, whose dramatic and poetic work, *Time and the River*, is currently playing at the Royal Lyceum Theatre (7.30pm to 8.30pm). Over at the Usher Hall (8pm), in the second of two concerts at this year's International Festival, Frank Bragg conducts the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century in Haydn's *Symphony No. 10* and Beethoven's *Violin Concerto* (soloist: Thomas Zehetmair). Finally, the Lindseys perform Haydn's *Symphony No. 10* and Beethoven's *Violin Concerto* (soloist: Thomas Zehetmair). The Lindseys perform Haydn's *Symphony No. 10* and Beethoven's *Violin Concerto* (soloist: Thomas Zehetmair). The Lindseys perform Haydn's *Symphony No. 10* and Beethoven's *Violin Concerto* (soloist: Thomas Zehetmair).

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Macey

CHICHESTER: Patricia Routledge plays *Beatrice*, the Lakeland sheepfarmer, famous for her enigmatic play for one player, *Beatrice*, who collaborated with John Taylor on the rest, *Beatrice*. Music by Carl Davis. (Oaklands Park 01243 781312). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Fri and Sat, 2.45pm. Until September 14.

DERBY: Mark Clements directs the first regional production of *A Christmas Carol*, which ran for 15 years on Broadway. Playhouse Theatre (01773 322 3632/75). Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; Fri and Sat (Aug 31, Sep 7, 14), 2.30pm. Until September 28.

LONDON

BBC PROMS 96: Claudio Abbado conducts the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in two of Brahms's finest works: *Piano Concerto No. 1* in D minor and *Symphony No. 1* in C minor. The Philharmonie, Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm. Festival box office 0171-225 5756.

FRINGE EVENTS: Ed. Eoin Breen conducting the Perth Youth Orchestra in works by Shostakovich, Elgar, Copland, Elgar, Mendelssohn and Walton (Central Hall, 7.30pm). At the same time, in Old St Paul's Church and Hall, the choir and orchestra of Old St Paul's, under Leslie Stanford, perform *Paul's Requiem* together with Brimble's *Alto Requiem* and a Handel Organ Concerto played by John Batten. The Farnham Gower House (9.30pm) is the venue for a concert of Scottish music by Fred Morrison and

ELSEWHERE

CHICHESTER: Patricia Routledge plays *Beatrice*, the Lakeland sheepfarmer, famous for her enigmatic play for one player, *Beatrice*, who collaborated with John Taylor on the rest, *Beatrice*. Music by Carl Davis. (Oaklands Park 01243 781312). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Fri and Sat, 2.45pm. Until September 14.

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LONDON GALLERIES

Camden Arts Centre: New Contemporary (0171-435 2843). Design Museum, 100 Mezzanines, Lumsden Road, 20th Century (0171-378 6055). Lighthouse Museum, Randolph College, 0171-692 3118. Litter Gallery, Victor Burgin, Dan Graham, Rodney Graham, John Hillard (0171-724 2230). Mall Galleries, Australian (0171-430 6944). National Portrait Gallery, Assembling the Joints (0171-208 0059). The Photographers' Gallery, Larry Clark, 0171-431 1772. Redfern Gallery, Summer Exhibition (0171-734 1732). Royal Academy, Roger de Grey (0171-430 7438). Whitechapel, The Open (0171-522 7888).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

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STARLIGHT EXPRESS: THE FASTEST TRU... When it's on the road it's

Coming up roses, if Labour wins

Rachel Kelly reports on the influence that a change of government could have on the property market

The inquiries have begun. The grander estate agents are fielding calls from British buyers for whom the prospect of a Labour government is prompting them to think of moving to Monaco or the Channel Islands. Patrick Dring, of Knight Frank, says: "We suddenly seem to have received many more inquiries for tax-haven properties. Many people believe that a Labour government might raise taxes for the wealthy, and they want to move before their money is taxed any further." The view is that it takes a year for people to rearrange their affairs.

Last December, Britain's largest landowners met at Blenheim Palace to discuss taxes under Labour. The meeting, jointly organised by Coopers & Lybrand, suggested that there might be a case for "bringing forward any plans you may have for becoming non resident".

But what would Labour mean for the property market more generally? After all, fleeing is only for the very rich. Jersey, for example, insists that new buyers have minimum assets of between £10 and £12 million and a guaranteed annual income that will ensure tax payments of between £150,000 and £200,000. Other tax havens effectively limit new residents by the prohibitive cost of property.

The answer is that the future of property lies in the future of the economy more generally. Whatever Labour's specific housing policies, none matter unless the wider economic framework is successful. And the great unknown in the economic boiling pot of interest rates, exchange rates and public finances is fiscal policy. Labour still refuses to be drawn on taxes.

Gary Marsh, a spokesman for the Halifax Building Society, says: "It's in the macroeconomic sphere that we'll see if new Labour really is new. There are two real driving forces behind the housing market: personal disposable incomes and interest rates. If either party wanted to raise interest rates or income tax, it would certainly have a detrimental effect on the housing market."

Lorna Vestey, of Knight Frank, agrees that a rise in tax rates would be the single most detrimental action Labour could take. Yolande Barnes, head of residential research at Savills, feels Labour is reluctant to raise income tax levels in the first term, though it might create a higher rate tax band of 50 per cent.

As for interest rates, the likelihood is that Labour's policy would be similar to current Government policy. Ms Barnes says: "I don't think Labour would want to put interest rates up, but it is all a matter of how the markets react to them. If sterling strengthens after a Labour victory, because of Labour's commitment to the European monetary union, then there may even be scope to reduce interest rates. But other economic forecasters believe

that interest rates may have to rise to contain inflationary pressures in the market, regardless of who is in power."

As for particular housing policies, the differences between the two parties have shrunk. Mr Marsh says: "I can no longer see any clear blue water between the Tories and Labour." Labour, for example, would keep mortgage interest relief at source (Miras),

previously a target, at its present levels. This is a year in which Labour has been making strenuous efforts to reinvent itself as the homeowner's party, while the Conservative record as the party of home ownership has become tarnished.

In the late 1980s the "homeowning democracy" was seen as one of the greatest achievements of the Thatcher revolution.

But the property bubble has burst, and Tony Blair can now brand the Tories as the party of "negative equity, repossession, broken dreams and falling house values".

As James Barty, economist with Morgan Grenfell, says: "It seems unlikely that a Labour government would be as pro-home ownership as a Conservative government, but on the other hand the Tories have recently been curtailing their tax

incentives for homeowners." Both Miras and income support for unemployed homeowners have been hit by the Tories. There is little to choose between them.

In terms of particular policies, Labour has unveiled a number of schemes to help homeowners and tenants. This seems to be the focus of its activities, rather than stimulating the market through reducing stamp duty, for example.

Nick Raynsford, Labour's housing spokesman and former head of Shelter which campaigns for the homeless, promised last year to sweep away many of the legal restrictions which make it difficult to force landlords to sell freeholds to lessees. Labour would defend leaseholders against the sort of estate management schemes that have caused controversy in Kensington, Belgravia and Mayfair.

Mr Raynsford has also resolved to help an estimated 1.7 million mortgage-holders facing repayment difficulties and to introduce better safeguards to entice potential first-time buyers. He would encourage changes in the type of mortgage so that repayments could be more flexible, as well as more effective private mortgage insurance packages to compensate for the abolition of the income support safety net for new borrowers.

More generally, Labour has said it would aim to reduce bed-and-breakfast accommodation by freeing up an estimated £4.5 billion of capital receipts to encourage local councils, in partnership with industry, to regenerate urban wastelands. Such action could really help the market, Mr Barty says.

Not all of Labour's proposals have passed without alarm. It is likely that redirecting capital receipts would undermine the ability of some wealthier boroughs and shires to keep council tax bills down. Mr Raynsford has admitted that there might have to be a "modest" rise in tax in some areas.

Labour might change the rules on foreign ownership. Overseas investors could lose the exemption on paying tax in Britain on their worldwide income.

"Obviously," Ms Vestey says, "if either party showed an interest in penalising overseas owners of UK property for investing in this country then this would undoubtedly have a detrimental effect, dealing a major blow to the recently regained confidence in the market."

Labour is opposed to the trend towards "private" housing developments, in which the roads are closed to the general public and security is a top priority. Instead, they wish for mixed private and public sector developments.

Whatever Labour's housing and economic policies, governments can influence housing markets only up to a point. Ms Barnes says: "Governments might like to think that they control housing markets, and yes, a specific policy such as Nigel Lawson's decision to abolish double Miras in 1988 can have a great impact, but in general markets are overwhelmingly decided by factors other than government policy. Supply and demand will determine the market whatever the colour of the party in power."

Demand has been building steadily in the market for the past seven years. There is pressure from the number of new households needed. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, has said that Britain will need an extra 4.4 million houses over the next 20 years. Pressure is building too from the lack of the right type of property in the right place and of the right quality. That alone will ensure a healthy housing market in the next few years, but that, as they say, is another story.



Guernsey: Fort Saumarez, on the west coast of the island, has three acres of gardens and terraces and direct access to the beach and jetty. It is on sale for £690,000



Ireland: the minstrels' gallery in the banqueting hall at Ballea Castle, near Cork

Havens from rising taxes

THERE is no shortage of expensive properties for wealthy people worried about possible political change. Conal Walsh writes.

In Guernsey, Knight Frank is asking £690,000 for Fort Saumarez, a property of historical interest on the west coast of the island. It adjoins the Martello Tower (built during the Napoleonic wars) and is fortified with gun emplacements set into the headland. The house has three reception rooms, two bedrooms, an annex with a further four bedrooms, and three acres of gardens and terraces, with direct access to the beach and jetty.

Mainland buyers are restricted to buying homes on Guernsey's "open market", where prices can be double those on the "local market" from which islanders buy. But there is nothing on Guernsey to compare with the £10 million assets required to qualify for residence on Jersey. And Guernsey offers the same tax breaks: a 20 per cent rate on taxable incomes, and no VAT, capital gains tax, death duties or inheritance tax.

And remember, it was Guernsey, not Jersey, that Victor Hugo called his *Île Bienheureuse*: low unemployment, low crime rates, a sunnier climate than the

mainland... small wonder the island acts as a magnet for those who can afford it. St Peter Port's marinas typically play host to 10,000 foreign yachts a year.

More famous as a haven for the international jetset is Monaco. The tiny principality on the Côte d'Azur will not tax private incomes and supplies its "exiles" with an array of lawyers, bankers and accountants.

Hampshire is selling the master flat of 21 Avenue Princesse Grace, which overlooks the beaches of Monte Carlo. Two reception rooms, four bedrooms, a large dining room, is yours for £150 million (£6 million).

Ballea Castle in County Cork is rather a different proposition. Those who made their fortune in the entertainment industries might like to ask if the Irish authorities would classify them as "artists" — if so, they will not be taxed on their artistic earnings.

The asking price for the medieval castle is £1 million, which includes baronial and banqueting halls, drawing room, dining room, utility room, study, chapel, a guest wing, ambassador suite and five double bedrooms, stables, gardens and 50 acres of land. The castle is ten miles from Cork city.

● Contacts: Knight Frank 0171-629 8171, Hampton's 0171-824 8822.

A Georgian folly in Somerset is looking forward to better days

A folly in what was once one of England's finest Georgian landscape gardens is up for auction.

The Bailiff's House at Patcombe, Somerset, was identified by Gervase Jackson-Stops as the Temple of Pan in an article in *Country Life* in February 1989. The folly was designed in 1771 by the architect John Johnson for the Halswell House estate. The small pink-brick classical temple in the Quantock Hills is fronted with a curved stone portico of Doric columns. With a guide price of £50,000, the temple is being sold with planning permission to be converted into a house.

The folly is in an "absolutely terrible state", says Peter Beacham, an English Heritage inspector of historic buildings. It is a gloomy sight. The roof has caved in, the windows stand empty of glass and frame, and ivy overruns the building. Farm outbuildings are huddled against the back of the temple, and overgrown grass surrounds the portico.

The estate is owned by a local farmer as part of Patcombe Farm. Even after pressure from Somerset County Council, he was unable to restore the building, so he and the council came to a compromise.

Temple of Pan seeks a careful owner

The temple will be offered for sale with planning permission to build a large extension, to provide a home large enough to interest prospective buyers. The planning permission allows only for strictly limited development, which should involve restoring the folly.

The Temple of Pan was one of the last of a series of 11 follies added to the Halswell estate in the second half of the 18th century. It was part of Sir Charles Kemys-Tynte's transformation of his family estate. Where there had been formal gardens, he created a landscaped Georgian pleasure garden and park.

The estate has been split up since Lord Wharton, Kemys-Tynte's last male descendant, sold Halswell at the end of the Second World War. The grounds housing the Temple

of Pan are no longer part of the estate. According to Hugh Stafford, of the Halswell Park Trust, the folly was almost certainly originally built to be inhabited, but has not been lived in since shortly after the First World War. Since then it has slowly deteriorated into the ruin it is today.

Pevsner called Halswell's main house, in the village of Cothurst, "the finest house of this date in Somerset". Restoring the house and estate from a state of dilapidation has become a popular cause. English Heritage, the Georgian Group and SAVE have all been involved.

The main house is presently owned by a Bristol businessman. According to Mr Beacham, it is in much better condition than it has been for many years. The older part, which dates from about 1536,

is let as flats, while Sir Halswell Tynte's 1689 North Range is standing empty.

The council would have preferred the Somerset Buildings Preservation Trust (SBPT) to have taken on the Temple of Pan. The Trust has already bought two of the estate's follies. The Temple of Harmony, designed by Thomas Prowse with an interior by Robert Adam, has been restored and opened to the public. The SBPT plans to do the same with the Robin Hood House, and has created the Halswell Park Trust to maintain both follies. But the two local trusts have limited funds and are concentrating their efforts on purchasing the whole of Mill Wood, the old pleasure garden in which the Temple of Harmony stands.

But the Halswell Park Trust is not happy with the planned extension to the Temple of Pan. Hugh Stafford, the trust's secretary, says it is "just about acceptable as a compromise, but only just". Mr Beacham points out that historically there was another building attached to the rear of the temple. But Mr Stafford counters that its absence today proves that it was poorly constructed and therefore not part of the original structure.

He hopes that the property will not reach its reserve at auction. He says that the Landmark Trust has expressed interest in the temple, but is unable to pay the sort of price it could fetch at auction. Landmark, which restores historic buildings as holiday homes, has a policy of not "hindering" buildings, and would be unlikely to extend the temple.

Mr Stafford thinks there is a good chance no one will want to tackle the expensive development plans, but R B Taylor and Sons of Yeovil, the estate agents, say they have already had "a lot of inquiries".

JUSTIN HUGGLER

● The Temple of Pan at Patcombe Farm, Broomfield, near Taunton goes on sale by public auction at The Walnut Tree Hotel, North Petherton, on Wednesday, September 18 at 7.30pm. Guide price £50,000-£70,000.

Slow sellers in the bargain bin

Justin Huggler on how agents may be open to offers for houses unsold after more than a year

THERE are houses which the estate agents, amazingly, keep quiet about. Their owners, in theory, should succumb to a little tough bargaining. For in a new occasional column, *The Times* is highlighting property which has been on the market for at least a year. Some of the houses have fallen in price. Even those houses untouched by price cuts may yield to a good offer.

The 15th-century Netherby Hall, near Carlisle, was originally a fortified tower house, built to withstand border attacks. It appears in Sir Walter Scott's *Marmion*, and boasts a dramatic three-storey entrance tower with a carved stone knight and coat of arms.

The house was put on the market in late 1993 through the agent Jackson-Stops and Staff. After prolonged negotiations a sale was agreed in November last year, only to fall through. The agent relaunched the property in June, but still at the original guide price of £850,000. The new incentive on offer is that planning permission is being sought to convert the hall into 15 flats.

Testcombe, in Chilbolton, Hampshire, has been available for a year. Though it has failed to sell, Knight Frank has not reduced the guide price of £1.8 million for the entire property. Instead, it is offering the choice of buying the whole estate or one of three lots.

The first comprises five acres. It includes the brick and exposed timber main house, the formal gardens and 600 yards of fishing on the Test. Knight Frank is asking £1.2 million. The second lot features Testcombe Cottage, a much smaller house. It covers a total of seven-and-a-half acres, and includes 545 yards of fishing on the Test and its tributaries. The price is £500,000.

The third lot is land with fishing rights. No building

stands on the one-and-a-half acres known as The Broad. It contains 225 yards of fishing and is available for £75,000-£100,000.

Bargain hunters would do better to head north of the Scottish border. Prices there have fallen dramatically on some unsold properties.

Meadow Bank House is a long-running non-seller whose price has been reduced. The elegant Georgian neoclassical mansion in Dumfries and Galloway stands tall and imposing in its own ten-acre park near the Solway Firth. The ten-bedroom house was available for three years without selling. Eighteen months ago the guide price fell from £230,000 to £200,000, through Savills. Meadow Bank is under offer.

But offers now often fall through, as Arabella House proves. Arabella, at Tain, in the Easter Ross, was built in the 17th century. Hugh Rose, who bought it in 1795, named



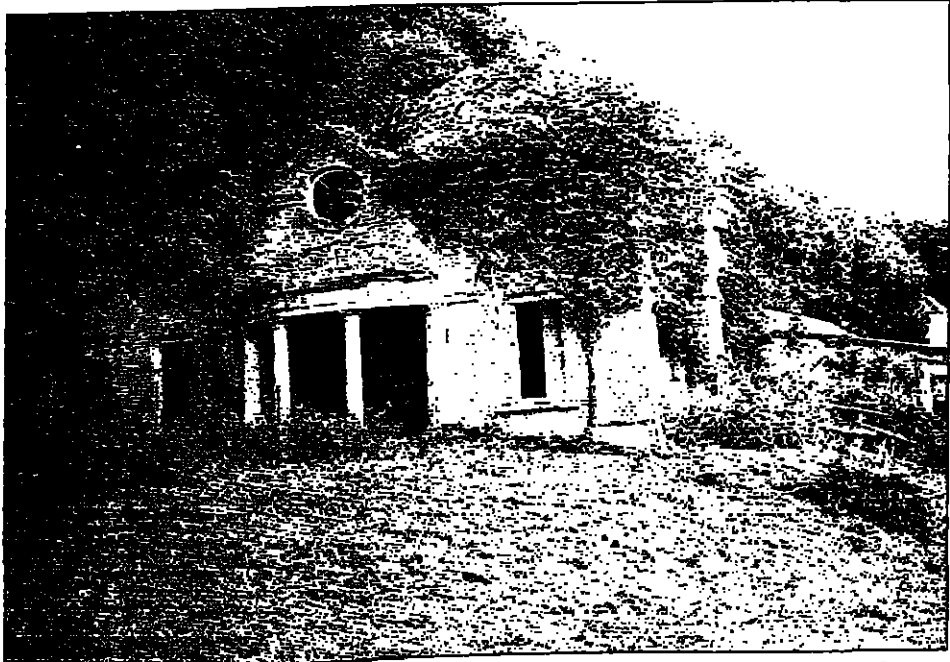
Netherby Hall, near Carlisle, is for sale at £850,000

it after his young wife. She was subsequently murdered on a nearby beach by a rival lover. The place is for sale with a print of her portrait. Jamie MacNab, from Savills, describes Arabella as the prettiest house on his books. Red Virginia creepers cover the pink-washed house. A curved bay with battlements in the baronial style adorns one facade.

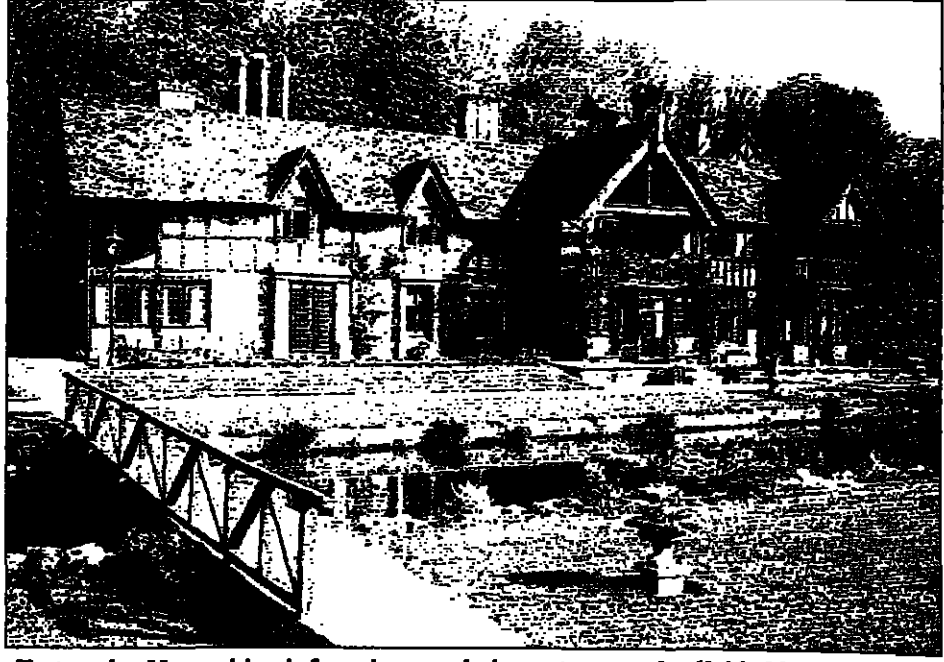
But Arabella has been on the market for four years.

Offers have been accepted three times, only for the buyer to pull out, on one occasion because of losses in the Lloyd's crash. In spite of its longevity in the property pages, the guide price has not been reduced, and is still £225,000.

● Buyers can contact Jackson-Stops and Staff about Netherby on 0171-580 4530; Knight Frank about Testcombe on 0171-629 8171 and Savills' Scottish office about Meadow Bank and Arabella on 0131-226 6961.



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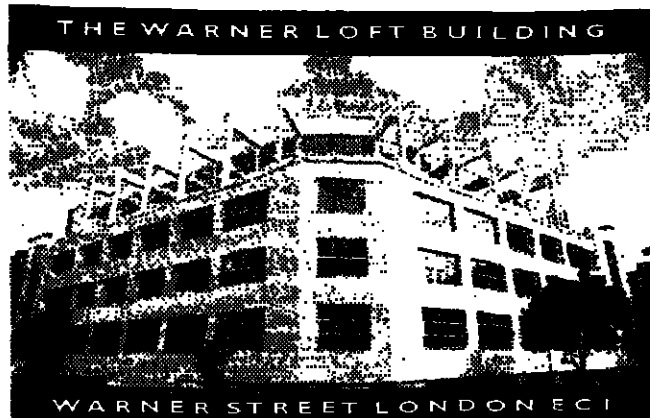
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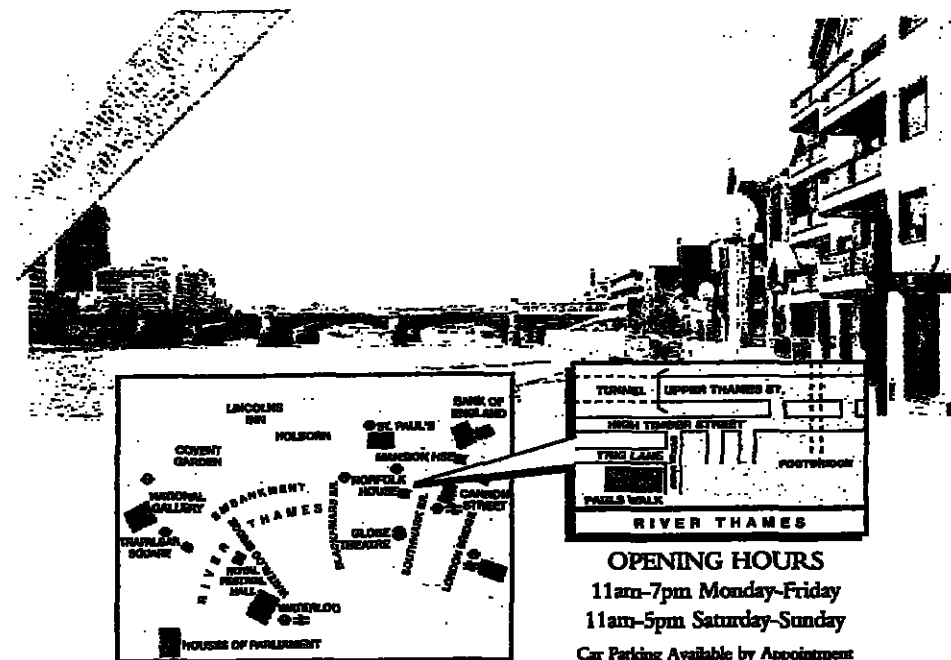


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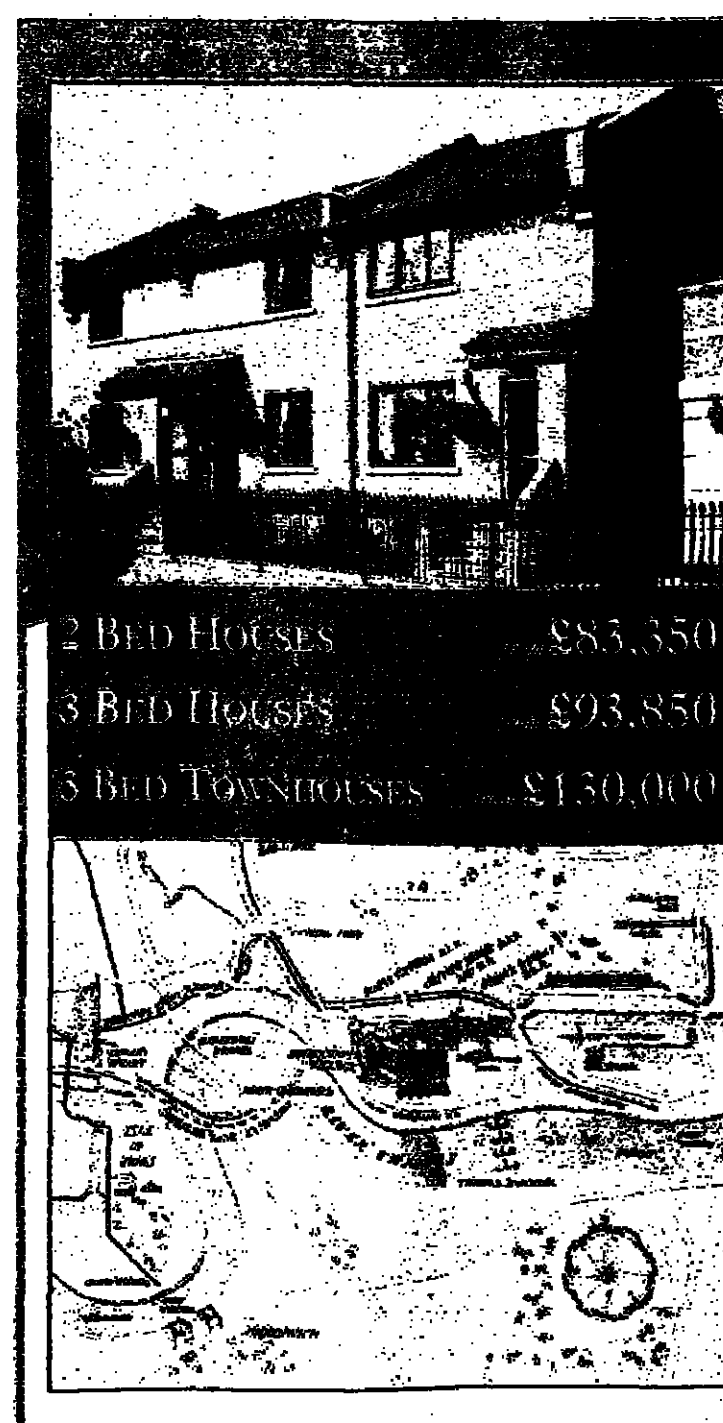
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Berkley

RACING: BAHHARE FACES STERN EXAMINATION OF CLASSIC CREDENTIALS IN CHAMPAGNE STAKES AT DONCASTER

Indiscreet plan promises absorbing contest

By JULIAN MUSCAT

THE David Loder-trained Indiscreet, backed down to second favourite for next year's 2,000 Guineas with Coral, is expected to cross swords with Bahhare, ante-post favourite for the same classic, in the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster on September 13.

A meeting between the two colts would almost certainly identify the winter favourite for the 2,000 Guineas after Zamindar's eclipse at Deauville ten days ago. Zamindar had previously cornered the market, but his defeat prompted Coral to extend his odds to 14-1. That price has since been taken and the full-brother to Zafonic now shares second favourite status with Loder's juvenile.

Indiscreet broke the juvenile track record when making a winning debut at York last week. "He has taken that race well," Loder said yesterday, "and it is likely that the Champagne Stakes will be his next test. I thought it was a very impressive performance at York, given how little work he'd done and how immature he is."

The Newmarket trainer only elected to run Indiscreet after the colt had moved fluently in a steady workout six days earlier. Indiscreet is from the first crop of St Jovite, the Irish Derby and King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes winner, from a stamina-laden female line. "The horse is bred to stay quite well," Loder said. "I expected him to find it tough over six furlongs at York against some well-regarded

Nap: ROMAN REEL
(2.50 Brighton)
Next best: Naisant
(3.10 Carlisle)

Angus Gold, racing manager to Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum, who owns Bahhare, said the John Dunlop-trained colt would head for the Champagne Stakes irrespective of the likely opposition. "Bahhare has enjoyed a short break but the Doncaster race is definitely the target for him," Gold said. "Indiscreet looked very impressive at York and I gather there were a lot of fancied horses in the race. From our point of view, we've got to find out how good our horse is sooner or later."

Gold added that the Sheikh, Dunlop and Willie Carson have until Friday to launch an

appeal against Bint Salsabil's disqualification from first place in the Prix de la Nonette at Deauville on Sunday.

Connections of Bint Shad-ayid, disqualified from second place, have ruled out an official protest but Dunlop and Carson are to examine film of the race before reaching a decision. The race was awarded to Luna Wells, who crossed the line in third place.

Luna Wells is trained by André Fabre, who plans to run Zamindar in the Prix de la Salamandre at Longchamp on September 15. Fabre was critical of the slow pace dictated by Thierry Jarnet when Zamindar succumbed to Bahman Bounti in the Prix Morry last time. Whatever the merits of Fabre's complaint, Loder should know where Indiscreet stands with Zamindar, a possible runner in the Dewhurst Stakes later in the season.

Loder also trains Bahman Bounti, whose next target is the Middle Park Stakes over six furlongs at Newmarket in October. Another stablemate, Abou Zouz, winner of the Gimcrack Stakes last week, now heads for the Tattersalls Sales Stakes over seven furlongs at the same Newmarket meeting.

"One can question whether either colt will stay a mile on pedigree," Loder said, "but both are relaxed individuals who should give themselves every chance. I think seven furlongs is within Abou Zouz's compass so he should have no trouble with the distance of the Tattersalls race."



Bahhare, the 2,000 Guineas favourite, makes an impressive winning debut at the Newmarket July meeting

RUGBY LEAGUE

Poor clubs eager to cross the divide

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

GEOFFREY MOORHOUSE, in conclusion to his new edition of *A People's Game*, said that, in the new Super League era, there were still those in rugby league who remained as nervous as the horses before the great San Francisco earthquake of 1906. At the end of the first summer season, that sense of trepidation refuses to go away.

Some smaller clubs wonder whether they will survive the winter. Others are resigned to merging, a process that met with uproar last year when it was being imposed on clubs. Financial necessity has forced the issue.

A mad scramble of cobbled-together outfits and, in the case of Keighley, one that is prepared to up sticks from Yorkshire to Lancashire and move in with Burnley Football Club, is banging at the Super League door. They know that, on the outside, they face financial exposure.

The divide between the haves in the Super League and have-nots in the first and second divisions, already stark in playing terms, can only widen. The 12 Super League clubs, plus South Wales, are, from next year, to form themselves into a semi-autonomous body. It will run on similar lines to the FA Premier League in football and handle sponsorship, merchandising and promotional activities.

Super League Ltd will operate independently of the other member clubs of the Rugby Football League, the professional governing body, which will have a significant share in the company. A breakaway is implicit, even though clubs insist that is not the case. Those in the Super League will, in future, get the lion's share of the £17.4 million annual payout from the five-year Super League television contract.

Those in the first and second divisions, which have received between £150,000 and £700,000 this year, will have their budgets cut under the proposal before the Rugby

League Council, on September 11. Mergers, inevitably, are back on the agenda, in the cases of Huddersfield, Batley and Dewsbury; Featherstone and Wakefield; and Workington, Whitehaven and Keighley. Meanwhile, Hull, Keighley and Widnes are asking to be "fast tracked" on their own.

If everyone got in, it would dilute the elite principle of the Super League, but a dozen sides the first year meant too few fixtures. The successful application by South Wales was an indication, too, that new pastures are of more interest.

Paris Saint-Germain have a marvellous stadium and showed signs of having a team to match it. They no longer have Jacques Fouroux and Tas Baidier, the twin forces behind Paris, which must build on more than the memory of an 18,000 crowd on the Super League's opening night.

Summer brought a try glut, an end to frozen pitches and promoted excellence. Bradford Bulls even overtook Wigan in the popularity stakes, with an average 10,346 attendance. If Bradford, on and off the field, were the success story of the first Super League, St Helens were its undoubted stars.

In knocking Wigan off their pedestal, St Helens, the newly-crowned champions, broke the one-club spell that had made so much about rugby league predictable. St Helens can plan with confidence. The same cannot be said of Wigan, who are being subsidised part of the winter with money from rugby union. Bath have taken over the contracts of Jason Robinson and Henry Paul and Wasp that of Vahala Tuigamala. The new rich in union pose an obvious threat.

The forthcoming top-four Premiership represents St Helens's chance of a treble. Wigan's hope for redemption, and the opportunity for Bradford and London Broncos, two nearly sides, to gain reward for their positive approach.

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CRICKET: PAKISTAN CAPTAIN BELIEVES COUNTY DEMANDS TO BLAME FOR NATIONAL SIDE'S FRAILTY

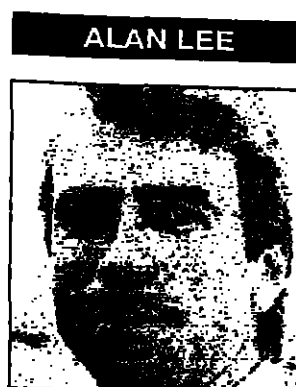
England malaise typified by Cork's decline

There was something symbolic about the way it ended. At 5pm on Monday, a long hop, one of innumerable from English hands, was flogged disdainfully for four and the Reader ball, subject of so much debate, vanished under the plastic covering on the Oval boundary. While every other player sprinted from the field ahead of invading hordes of Pakistani followers, Chris Lewis was left to ferret for the ball like a schoolboy sent to Coventry.

This was not how it was supposed to be. It did not accord with the midsummer doctrine of David Lloyd, who, mildly annoyed, said before the series began that England had been given insufficient credit for beating India. He also spoke warmly of the renaissance of Lewis. Another series win, he implied, was imminent.

Lloyd's optimism is endearing, but, after a full season as England coach, he may privately be appreciating how the job can turn the most buoyant of men into a tired old cynic. Lewis let him down, just as he has let down a succession of captains and coaches, but he was not alone. Lloyd was let down by a team that could not live up to his ideals. He was let down by English cricket.

If this appears a sweeping generalisation, it is intended to be. England performed modestly, erratically and largely joylessly, because this is how the claustrophobic domestic system decrees they will perform. If the counties, which frame and protect the structure, cannot appreciate how it



Cricket Correspondent

is draining the intensity from England's leading players, and will not listen to the committees and working parties that they so glibly authorise, perhaps they will take heed of the captain of Pakistan.

"You play far too much cricket," Wasim Akram said on Monday evening. "Your players know that. We talk about it on the circuit." This, please note, is delivered not by a man with no perception of the rhythms of English cricket, but by one who has spent seven years with Lancashire and intends returning to them next season.

Wasim's solution — "divide the county championship into two divisions and let sides play no more than nine or ten games" — is, sadly, unlikely to occur this side of the millennium.

"No human being can play 17 four-day games a year and

still bowl fast," he added with the certainty of one who knows. Anyone inclined to begin a riposte to this with a reference to Alec Bedser, Fred Trueman or anyone else from the age before one-day cricket, should think again. It was a different game, one in which fast bowlers were not expected to field with athleticism or to switch, bewilderingly, between the codes and limitations of modern cricket. That was then, this is now, and the two cannot be compared.

On Monday, Wasim and his friend, Michael Atherton, the captain of England, referred to Dominic Cork. "They say he's burnt out at 24," Wasim said with more sympathy than surprise. "You have to remember that Corky has played a tremendous amount of cricket in the past 18 months," Atherton said. You have to admit, also, that it is showing.

Inevitably, it was to Cork that England looked first for inspiration in this series. While, for reasons not fully explained, they continued to exclude Darren Gough and gave Andy Caddick only one Test, which brought him six wickets, Cork was the one proven match-winner available to them; but he did not once look capable of seriously influencing a game.

Now, quite properly, the selectors are prepared to think long-term by leaving him at home when the team flies to Zimbabwe in November. He looks a weary cricketer, his action not quite what it was and his approach inclined to a silliness that may kindly be excused by fatigue; but he is a treasure and, with consecutive

series against Australia, West Indies and South Africa starting next summer, he must be revived.

Cork's first ten Tests brought him 45 wickets at an average of 25. In six games this summer, he has taken 22 wickets at an average of 37. He even became a first-change bowler as England employed a different new-ball pairing in each of the three games against Pakistan.

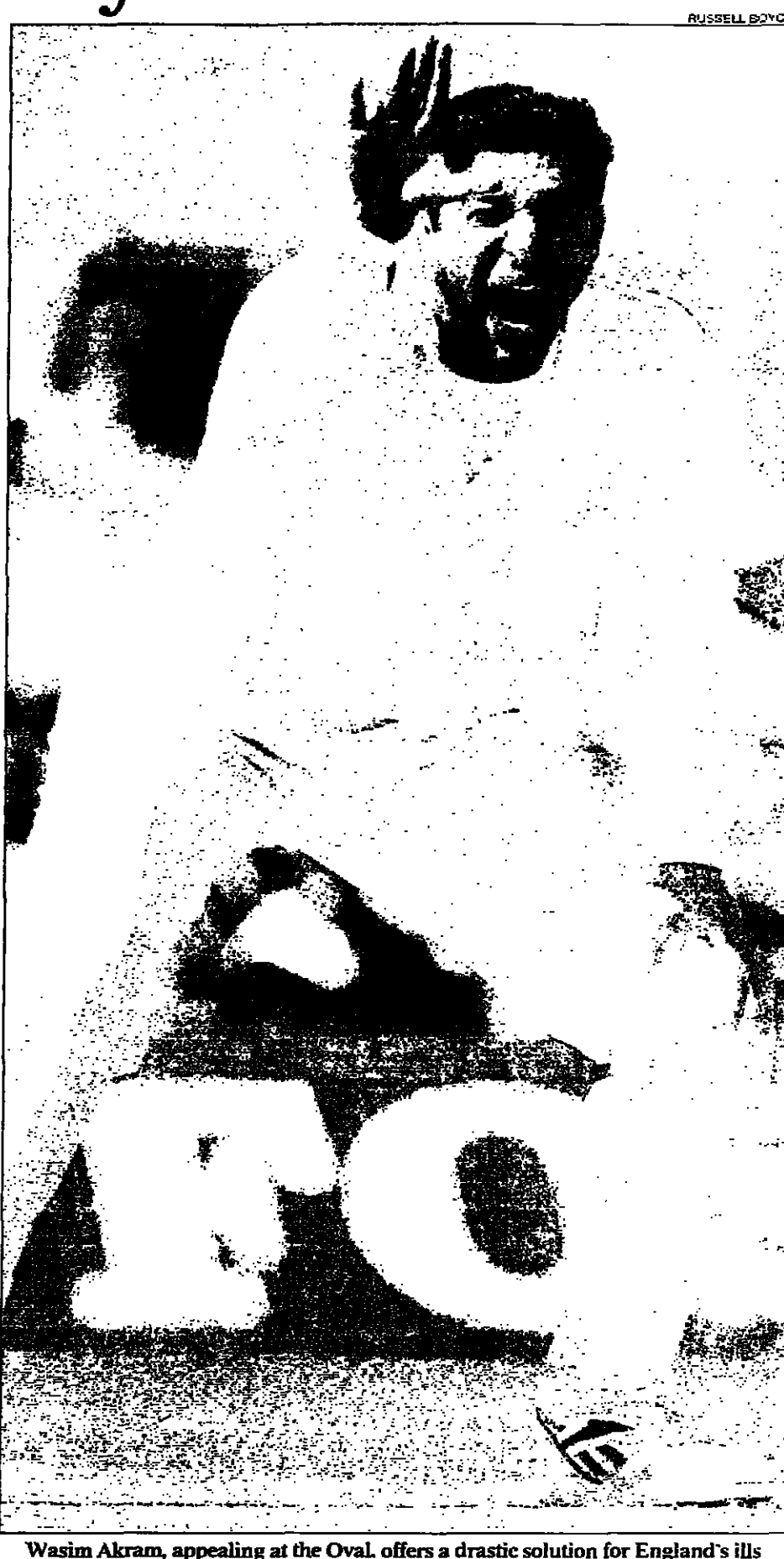
None of them looked the part, and surely Cork and Gough must eventually be reunited, feeding off each other as they did so briefly and promisingly last summer. Caddick, too, has a role. The selectors, however, are generally to be pitied, for to find an English attack capable of disturbing the best of international batsmen is a thankless task.

Hitting the stumps is not everything, but it certainly helps, once in a while, and, of all the statistics with which England's performance can be damned, the fact that they dismissed only four Pakistanis bowled, as against 18 totalled by the opposition, makes a stark contrast.

The reasonable theory that England might profit from Pakistan's traditional hot-headedness survived through the opening day of the first Test. England's best of the series. Then it was buried by a team united under Wasim and eager, indeed passionate, to prove itself once again.

They did so triumphantly and cordially. The way this Pakistan side conducted itself was a blessed relief after the petulance and indiscipline of the 1992 team, but the way they won was no different. In Wasim, Waqar Younis and Mushtaq Ahmed, they possess three match-winning bowlers, more than any other Test team can presently boast. That, rather than by the ball-tampering so spuriously and disconcertingly alleged, was why they won in 1992, and it was why they won again.

To seek a silver lining within England's demise is inevitably to strain credulity. They have, at least, identified six batsmen of some pedigree, and must stick with them, although the manner of the collapse on Monday even made one wonder about this as a genuine gain. Probably, there will be no such thing until the words of Wasim, and so many others, are properly recognised and the welfare of England's international cricketers becomes a priority rather than a nuisance.



Wasim Akram, appealing at the Oval, offers a drastic solution for England's ills

SQUASH

Improving Cairns overcomes Harris

FROM COLIN MCQUEEN IN HONG KONG

MARK CAIRNS pulled off the shock result of the opening session of the Hong Kong Open championship, defeating Del Harris, the No 6 seed and Super Series champion, 15-12, 7-15, 15-6, 15-12 in 64 minutes.

Cairns just missed selection for the England squad that lifted the world team title last November, behind Harris and Mark Chaloner. He made the squad for the mixed-sex World Cup in May, but watched from the reserve bench as England were crushed in the final by Australia. "You could say last season was only good in parts," Cairns, 29, from Abingdon, said.

He might have drawn some added satisfaction from Chaloner's 65-minute, 15-11, 17-16, 17-16 failure to survive a typically-abrasive assault from Anthony Hill, from Australia, in which the victor drew a conduct warning for verbal abuse. It was Chaloner's narrow victory over Cairns in a US Open quarter-final last year that decided their competition for the last England place.

Cairns now meets Joseph Kneipp, of Australia, in the second round tomorrow while Hill goes to another potentially acrimonious clash with Mir Zaman Gul, the Pakistani with whom he was involved in a head-butting incident at the 1994 British Open and a physical encounter in the world team semi-finals.

Cairns, ironically, has improved through the summer by working with Edward Winter and Damon Brown, the physiologists who planned the strength training on which Chaloner based his development last season.

Harris, at 27, is on a competitive comeback after a five-month rest because of a lower back problem that developed while he was winning the world team title and the Super Series play-offs last season. The lack of practice showed, "I had nothing in my legs," he said. "I lost in the first round of the British Open in April and two successive first-round losses in not going to do much for my rankings."

Results, page 37

TEST AVERAGES

England										Pakistan										
Batting										Batting										
	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Average	100	50	Cts		M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Average	100	50	Cts	
A J Stewart	3	5	0	386	170	79.20	1	2	2/1	Mon Khan	2	3	1	158	105	79.00	1	—	3	
J P Crawley	3	5	0	178	108	59.33	1	1	1	Ijaz Ahmed	5	1	1	34	141	68.00	1	3	1	
N V Wright	3	5	0	181	113	60.37	1	1	1	Salam Malik	5	2	1	190	107	65.00	1	1	1	
N Hussain	3	5	0	111	51	37.00	—	1	1	Imran-ul-Haq	3	5	0	320	148	64.00	1	2	2	
M A Atherton	3	5	0	162	64	54.00	—	1	3	Saeed Anwar	3	5	0	362	176	80.33	1	2	2	
G P Thorpe	3	5	0	158	77	51.80	—	1	2	Rashed Latif	1	0	0	45	45	45.00	—	—	—	
R C Russell	3	5	0	51	41	25.50	—	—	9	Aamir Sohail	3	3	0	77	46	38.50	—	1	1	
I D K Salisbury	3	5	0	30	25	15.00	—	—	—	Asif Mujtaba	3	3	0	90	51	30.00	—	1	1	
M A Ealham	3	5	0	50	25	15.00	—	—	—	Wasim Akram	3	5	0	88	40	24.50	—	1	1	
D G Cork	3	5	0	58	26	11.60	—	—	3	Shadab Kabir	4	0	0	87	35	21.75	—	—	—	
S J E Brown	3	5	0	11	6	11.00	—	—	1	Mushtaq Ahmed	4	1	1	44	20	11.00	—	—	3	
R D S Cook	3	5	0	11	6	11.00	—	—	1	Waqar Younis	3	1	1	17	7	5.50	—	—	1	
A D Mullaly	3	5	0	39	24	9.75	—	—	—	Azhar-ul-Rahman	2	2	0	10	10	10.00	—	—	—	
C C Lewis	3	5	0	18	9	4.00	—	—	1	Mohammad Akram	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	
C A Hick	3	5	0	4	4	4.00	—	—	1											
A R Caddick	3	5	0	4	4	4.00	—	—	1											
Bowling										Bowling										
	O	M	R	W	Average	Best	Sw	10w		O	M	R	W	Average	Best	Sw	10w			
M A Atherton	57	2	10	1	20.00	1-20	—	—		Mushtaq Ahmed	185	52	447	17	26.29	6-78	2	—		
A R Caddick	57	2	10	1	20.00	1-20	—	—		Waqar Younis	128	25	431	16	26.93	6-78	2	—		
D G Cork	131	23	634	19	33.37	1-13	—	—		Wasim Akram	126	29	250	11	21.81	3-67	—	—		
A D Mullaly	150	3	36	377	10	37.70	3-44	—		Azhar-ul-Rahman	48	6	173	5	34.60	4-50	—	—		
G A Hick	13	2	42	1	21.00	1-36	—	—		Salam Malik	23	7	71	7	21.00	1-41	—	—		
R D S Cook	47	10	126	2	62.50	1-16	—	—		Asif Mujtaba	2	0	1	0	—	—	—	—		
S J E Brown	33	4	138	2	69.00	1-50	—	—		Rashed Latif	7	5	6	0	—	—	—	—		
M A Ealham	37	8	31	61	38.87	1-16	—	—		Aamir Sohail	11	3	24	0	—	—	—	—		
I D K Salisbury	61	8	221	2	110.50	1-45	—	—												
C C Lewis	71	10	284	1	28.40	1-52	—	—												
G P Thorpe	13	4	19	0	—	—	—	—												

• denotes not out
□ Source: TCCBPA Cricket Record

* denotes not out
□ Source: TCCB/PA Cricket Record

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

I missed a neat safety play on this hand, from the match between Great Britain and Belgium in the EU championships in April. In this match, I was declarer on the first six boards. What are the odds of that, if it is 25% on each board? Answer below.

Dealer East	Love all	IMPs
♠ 7 ♥ K10863 ♦ A9 ♣ 88553	♠ 8 ♥ 5 ♦ Q87542 ♣ AK42	♠ K432 ♥ QJ942 ♦ J109 ♣ J
♠ AQJ10965 ♥ A7 ♦ K3 ♣ 107		

W	N	E	S
2S (1)	3D	Pass	1S
All Pass		4H	4S

Contract: Four Spades by South Lead: Six of hearts

(1) Showing hearts and a minor suit.

As South, I won the heart in hand and ruffed my remaining heart with dummy's singleton trump. Now my problem was how to get off dummy to draw trumps. The danger was that the defence might be able to get ruffs in diamonds and clubs.

Thinking that it did not make much difference, I played the queen of diamonds. When West won he should have returned a club; that way, which ever minor I play allows one defender to ruff and give his partner a ruff in the other one. Luckily for me, West feebly continued hearts, so I made an overtrick. The winning line is to play off the ace and king of clubs

after I had taken the heart ruff. East ruffs, but, although West has a singleton diamond, East cannot give him a ruff because of the blockage. Playing clubs first gains against the specific distribution in which West's diamond singleton is the ace.

If East had Axx in diamonds and a singleton club, he must return a club after taking the ace of diamonds. That sets up the defensive cross-ruff. Barber and Truscott, the Americans, found a similar defence on a hand reported recently.

□ Odds: Probability is 4 to the power of 6 — 4095-1.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BIBLICALS

- JUBAL
a. The first harpist
b. Priest during Josiah's reign
c. Nephew of Ish-bosheth
ELIEZER
a. Minor 8th century BC prophet
b. Servant to Abraham
c. The witch at Endor

- ICHABOD
a. An Amalekite leader
b. A temple prostitute
c. The grandson of Eli
UZ AND BUZ
a. The chief lieutenants of Moses
b. Abraham's nephews
c. Two Benjaminites

Answers on page 38

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Leko's revival

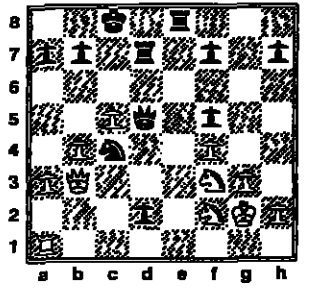
When Peter Leko, the Hungarian prodigy, became the world's youngest grandmaster at the age of 14 two years ago, many predicted a brilliant future for him. Unfortunately, his results failed to improve significantly after this early achievement and it seemed that he would not present a substantial challenge to the world elite.

However, in the recent Vienna tournament, Leko staged a partial revival, coming in half a point behind the joint winners and inflicting the following punishing defeat on one of them.

White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Peter Leko
Bank of Austria
Vienna, August 1996

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	d4	d5	exd5	cxds	c4	Nf6	Be6	Qd7
2	c4	Nf6	Be6	Qd7	g6	O-O		

Diagram of final position



a b c d e f g h

Junior champions

The full list of winners of the British junior championships held at Nottingham earlier this month is:

Under-8: Gawron Jones, Under-8: Ansel Groot Under-10: Kurnadip Chakraborty, Under-10: Kurnadip Chakraborty, Under-12: Christopher Cheema Under-12: Ross Harvey Under-14: Ben Sedgwick Under-14: Ben Sedgwick Under-16: Nathan Allred, Mark Roberts Under-16: Nathan Allred, Mark Roberts Under-18: Churn, Andrew Groot, Oliver Rosen.

Two other British championships were awarded on the basis of results in the main competition. Jonathan Parker was awarded the British under-21 championship while Harriet Hunt was awarded the women's title.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276) at £6.99 plus postage and packing.

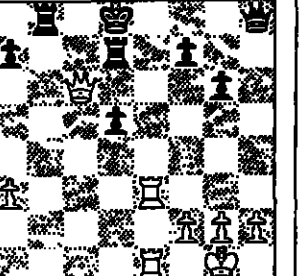
□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Ribkin — Marschenko, Soviet Union, 1974. Black is in terrible trouble as his queen is watching from the wings while White's major pieces are bearing down on his exposed king. How did White continue?

Solution on page 38



Larkins offers main threat to Cheshire

By SIMON WILDE

WHEN Bedfordshire met Cheshire in the final of the Minor Counties limited-overs trophy, in the competition's inaugural season of 1983, Wayne Larkins was at his roistering best as an opening batsman. Indeed, three weeks before Cheshire won that match by 36 runs, Larkins was, rather typically, scoring a century before lunch, and another between lunch and tea, for Northamptonshire in a county championship match at Cardiff.

One century from Larkins, 42, will probably be sufficient for Bedfordshire, for whom he now plays, to claim the MCC Trophy for the first time when the counties meet again today, this time at Lord's. Although Larkins, the former England opening batsman, has scored six championship centuries in his first season for his native county, he actually owes them some runs in one-day cricket. He was dismissed for single-figure scores in the quarter and semi-finals.

Cheshire, who were also victorious in 1987, have enjoyed a few lean years since, but performed impressively to beat Cumberland, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire on the way to the final. They are seeking a third victory to equal the record of Staffordshire, who won the competition three times in a row from 1991.

Though they do not possess a player with the match-winning potential of Larkins, Cheshire can call on the services of several former county professionals. They are captained by Ian Cockbain, once of Lancashire, their leading batsman is Mark Saxelby — who played alongside Larkins at his second county, Durham — and among their seam bowlers is Tony Murphy, formerly of Lancashire and Surrey.

Cockbain, a member of the side that won the trophy nine years ago, damaged an elbow last week, but has passed himself fit.

FIRST-CLASS AVERAGES

Batting									
Qualification: Six completed innings									
	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Average	100	50	
1 S Ganguly (India)	9	14	6	782	156	95.25	3	4	1
2 G P Thorpe (Surrey)	13	24	4	1444	185	72.50	6	6	6
3 K M Curran (Northants)	11	21	7	889	150	70.64	6	6	4
4 Saeed Anwar (Pakistan)	10	19	1	1324	219	69.00	—	—	—
5 H H Gibbs (South Africa A)	8	14	1	867	169	66.00	—	—	—
6 Imran-ul-Haq (Pakistan)	9	14	2	795	169	66.00	—	—	—
7 C A Gough (Essex)	13	22	0	1429	201	64.36	—	—	—
8 M P Maynard (Gloucestershire)	14	24	4	1297	214	64.85	—	—	—
9 S G Law (Essex)	13	22	1	1361	172	64.80	—	—	—
10 M G Swann (Yorkshire)	12	22	3	1025	160	64.47	—	—	—
11 S R Tendulkar (India)	7	11	0	707	177	64.27	—	—	—
12 A J Hollister (Surrey)	14	24	6	1145	128	63.51	—	—	—
13 S Lee (Somerset)	13	19	2	866	167	63.53	—	—	—
14 T M Moody (Worcestershire)	15	25	3	1310	212	59.54	—	—	—
15 H Mems (Gloucestershire)	14	24	2	1275	202	57.95	—	—	—
16 M A Butcher (Surrey)	14	24	3	1429	160	57.95	—	—	—

Muste

Rob Hughes on the recovery of the man whose penalty miss saddened a nation

That word, responsibility, has been the core of Southgate's rise as a footballer, from rejection as an adoles-

The past is unchangeable, but Southgate, still working his passage from a solid and dependable player into one of international class, is trying to



It's certainly the way forward. I'm very impressed with Franck Leboeuf, and we have to learn from these players because we haven't been taught to play

that way as kids in this country."

Last Saturday Aston Villa were granted a penalty against Derby County. The crowd chanted Southgate's name, but Tommy Johnson already had the ball, and Southgate admits that it was never his intention to step up and take it. It is, perhaps, the

one time this summer that Southgate has failed to take the ball and the bull by the horns and face this situation. I have one serious quibble with him. He still believes that penalties are a proper way to end a stalemate. "It's a test of skill," he insists, "and also of nerve, which is what football is all about." Masochist.

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

"I felt it would be a lift for him to know that he hadn't

Albans. "It's a massive jump from under-21 level to the full side, as I found out myself back in 1976, when I got into the England team and didn't do particularly well. Perhaps, if I'd had a proper grounding at the junior level first, I'd have been able to handle that better."

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON
AND PETER BALL

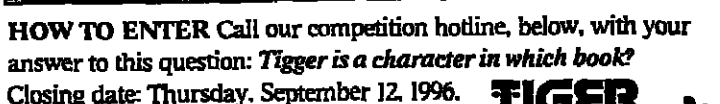
Chris Armstrong and Darren Anderton are likely to be fit for Tottenham's next game in the FA Carling Premiership, away to Wimbledon on Tuesday. Armstrong dam-

HOW TO ENTER

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Junior electronics to be won

Today *The Times*, in association with Tiger Electronics, gives you the chance to win exciting prizes featuring the most up to date computer gizmos for children. We have a total of 35 prizes to give away. Video Quest Master Computer has a talking vocabulary of 400 words, an electronic sketch pad with 24 functions and 14 colours and 25 built-in learning activities. Power Pack PC is a talking laptop-style learning computer with 35 multilevel activities and a mouse to help children learn spelling, basic grammar and maths; it has 1000 challenging trivia questions, a calculator and three difficulty levels. With Precious Pet Diary your child can choose a virtual pet then nurture, feed and play with it. And the Deluxe Dear Diary has fantastic features including music making, a wardrobe planner and sending messages.



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By RUSSELL KEMPSON

Ireland 1

Rangers, who won 2-1 at Portsmouth last Friday, will be without Kevin Gallen, who hurt his right knee when scoring the winning goal, his second of the game, at Fratton Park. "He went in bravely and his leg hyperextended," Ray

Oldham Athletic attempt to secure their first point when they travel to the County Ground to take on Swindon Town.

lan Marshall, the Ipswich Town striker, is today expected to complete a £1 million move to Leicester City, the FA Carling Premiership club. Marshall, 30, joined Ipswich from Oldham Athletic for £750,000 three years ago.

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

on Monday. McCarthy includes eight players who did not figure in Jack Charlton's plans during a decade of success with Ireland.

Kernaghan and Daish will return to their clubs from the Ireland training camp tomorrow having been assured by McCarthy that they, too, will still be considered for the

IRELAND SQUAD: A Kelly (Shuffle United), S Given (Blackburn Rovers), D Irwin (Manchester United), P Bebb (Liverpool), J Kerina (Blackburn Rovers), C Fleming (Middlebrough), G Breen (Birmingham City).

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leeds United

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leeds United
1 Wimbledon 0
SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP: Second round:
Apr 0 St Johnstone 4,
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division

OVERBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley 1 Barrow 2; Bamber Bridge 0 Chorley 2; Burton 1 Witton 1. Gainsborough 2 Flockley 0; Hyde 2 Runcorn 0. Leek 3 Winstond 1. First division: Altherton LR 0 Lough 2; Netherfield 1 Great Harwood 1.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone 0 Gresley 1; Burton 2 Nuneaton 1.

Adversity 0 Greasley 1; Burton 2 Nuthall 0
ULSTER CUP: First round, second leg:
 Glenties 1 Benger 1 (agg 2-1).
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier
 division: Liverpool 1 Oldham 1
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First
 division: Bournemouth 2 Christchurch 0

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries 0 Trafford 2; Booke 0 Kelsgrove 3; Chadderton 1; Hollar Old Boys 1; Maine Road 2; Vauxhall G.M. 2; Nantwich 2; Oldham 0; Oldham Athletic 2; Tameside 2.

Nantwich 2 Catherine 2; Newcastle Town 1
Glossop North End 0; Rossendale 1
Burscough 3.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE:
Premier division: Belper Town 3 Sealy 2
Donaby 2 Arnold 1; Hatfield Moor 0 Ossett
Town 2; Huddnall 0 Brigg 2; North Ferriby 6
Middlesbrough 2; Scarborough 2; Thimbleby 2

Such deadly earnest is not life-enhancing

I only read it afterwards, but apparently the makers of last night's American death penalty film *Procedure 769* (Channel 4's *True Stories*) spent two years tracing and persuading all the execution witnesses who appeared in their programme. Well, what a drag. After all that effort, you see, there was no chance they would let us off with a 40-minute snappy sort of film, employing such miraculous tools of the narrative business as reporting, editing, moving along smartly, or cutting to the chase.

No, this was a serious film that defied such tacky conventions. "Capital punishment is an issue which deserves a bit of respect," it said implicitly. Or possibly it was just a case of getting their money's worth out of those elusive witnesses. Either way, it took a very unflinching attitude to the time of busy, tired viewers who might be desperate to pull on those fluffy

jim-jams and hit the hay. Because after 90 minutes devoted to the case of San Quentin's Robert A. Harris (the first person executed in California in 25 years), *Procedure 769* had managed to tell us the bare minimum about his personality or his crime. The laughing killer, he was dubbed by the media, because he swaggered and smiled for cameras. That people in Britain were bored in death by this programme may make him laugh and swagger yet beyond the grave.

Procedure 769 didn't mean to be boring; it meant to be deep. Its title was clearly intended to draw attention to the banality of evil; its method of concentrating purely on the people who watched a man die was supposed to bring it all home. But it was oddly unmoving, perhaps because each of these witnesses, a reporter, a politician, victims' families, friends of the condemned — spoke too much

to have any impact. Still, by the time the grunting gas-chamber hour finally arrived, you certainly knew enough about each of the witnesses to judge their testimony for yourself. Linda, the white-blond, vengeful sister of a Harris murder victim, ground her axe visibly, with sparks. "He looked like he knew he was finally going to meet Satan," she reported, grinning at the last. "He struggled a little," she continued, rumbling her death throes. "but not enough for me."

Making it snappy was not an imperative much in evidence last night. I found, just as the average human starts to get impatient after 17 seconds waiting for a lift (yes, 17 seconds), so we have rigorous internal clocks for films and telly which suddenly announce "Pings! Your time is up!" Two-thirds of the

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

way through *Clive James Postcard from Hong Kong* (ITV), and out come those jim-jams willingly. When Clive James' "Postcards" series was on BBC, was it an hour long? On ITV, where the length is either 30 minutes or 60, all subjects must be either stretched on a rack or lopped off at the knee. In fact I would invoke that Greek bloke with his famous bed (the excellently named Pru-

crustes, who chopped and stretched his guests to fit if it wouldn't remind me of jim-jams all over again).

Having said all that, the postcard from Hong Kong was one of the best postcards James has sent us in a while, perhaps because he clearly adored the place, and cared what happened to it. Will China love it too, when they take over next year? Or will they (as he brutally pictured the future for Chris Patten) turn it into Tibet? As he inhaled the heady scent of money on every street corner, you could see how much the bulldozer option would disturb him personally. Between gorgeous night shots of the glittering city, the wisecracks flowed, the girth noticeably expanded, the Armani set dazzled him with their bank balances, and gold crockery glinted in the sun. However much he pretends in voiceover not to be impressed by rich people (inside it was an Aztec

crust, who chopped and stretched his guests to fit if it wouldn't remind me of jim-jams all over again).

So he visited Kowloon, the race track, the New Territories, and Patrick Lichfield photographing bathing beauties on a skyscraper roof. But street level brought out the best in him. "Ah, dried beef bars," he murmured in voiceover, while examining the contents of a big sack. "I must try them some time. Perhaps after an atomic war." Perusing the seafood on offer at a Kowloon chow stand, he was impressed by its freshness. "Any fresher," he said, "and you'd have to fight it for your life."

Slapsnick was kept to a modest minimum on this occasion. For some reason the "postcard" series

always demands W.C. Fields interludes, during which Clive feels compelled to demonstrate his sense of humour by acting the patsy and falling over. He is not without talent in this area, either. In Bombay, dressed as a Bollywood extra, he executed one of the funniest surprised-by-death scenes I have ever seen. However, last night he enacted a faux-naïf sequence in a cocktail bar which was as broad as it was long, in the worst sense of both.

Finally, neither broad, long, deep or indeed demonstrating any dimensions whatever, was the baffling return of the George Cole vehicle *My Good Friend* (ITV), a flat, inert sci-fi which makes two hours waiting for the gas chamber seem quite lively by comparison. *My Good Friend* emanates from the same talent as *Man Behaving Badly* and *As Time Goes By*. It just goes to show, doesn't it? You can't trust anybody.

CHOICE

The Fred Dibnah Story: Beginnings (BBC2) (except Northern Ireland), 8.30pm
Just when you thought it was safe to walk out at chimney without it crushing down on you, the Bolton steeplejack is back. Fred is 58 now, making public appearances thanks to the 19 films Don Haworth has made of his ups and downs over nearly 20 years. He thinks he may now be in the "twilight of his career," but isn't prepared yet to jack it in. Highlights from the films have been edited into a six-part biography and tonight we see the eternally cloth-capped one getting his first job — thanks to an eccentric view — and miffing his first wife of fame when he clears a vast inner city area and brings an almighty chimney down on it. "I've never felt off a big chimney," says Fred almost regretfully. "Reckon I'll die with me boots on."

Short Stories: Wild About the Bay (Channel 4), 8.30pm
"He thinks he's human — we must get him back to the wild," says the motherly Jean Bryant of a rather menacing-looking crow. And Flipper is ready to go to sea again, and out into the open, struggling gamely to control the slippery, barking seal run they rescued as an orphan. Although the focus of this charming film is on amateur vets Jean and Alan's ramshackle clinic for damaged wildlife, something darker shadows their village on Cardigan Bay, West Wales. The beautiful bay — a sanctuary for dolphins, seals and rare birds — has been threatened by oil and the arrival of ships, some of which are now fighting the oil companies with the determination of characters in an Ealing comedy.

Height of Courage (BBC2), 9.00pm
Left over from the BBC's geriatric season and now rescheduled, this is a stunning documentary about one Colonel Norman Vaughan — a Sean Connery look-alike — who, at almost 89, repeated 89, scaled a 10,000ft mountain in Antarctica and lived — vibrantly — to tell the tale. It's quite a tale, too, for this man in 1928 handled the sledges for Admiral Byrd's Antarctic expedition (archive film shows him at it), won Olympic Gold in the 1932 dog sled event, and in the Second World War commanded an elite rescue team of dog drivers in the Arctic. The film follows Vaughan over two years of demanding physical preparation (one failed attempt ended in a plane crash) until he scales "his" mountain, named Mount Vaughan — and dances in the snow with his equally buoyant wife. His message to the world? "Dream big."

QED: How to be Happy (BBC1), 10.00pm
Would you believe a "happiness workshop"? Well, there is one and its purpose is not to hand out antidepressants, but to nurture the attitudes and thought processes of volunteers who feel they are indeed unhappy — but not in any clinical sense. It's run by Robert Holden, a psychologist, with a little help from the Oxford Happiness Inventory and University of Chicago Affectometer (don't ask). The programme charts the progress of three volunteers over the eight-week course — a carer with a very old mother, a private detective, and a one-time sales executive. All feel — and film of their daily lives bears it out — that they should be much happier than they are. But how? Well, watch and wonder. At the end of the film they're seen munching the sunshine on a punt — sipping champagne.

6.00am GMTV (4674480) 9.25 *Halfway across the Galaxy and Turn Left* (ITV) (s) (718751) 9.50 *The Adventures of Captain Zieg* (ITV) (s) (5524732) 10.20 *News* (Teletext) (5340190) 10.25 *Regional News* (Teletext) (5849461) 10.30 *Sinatra* (ITV) (Teletext) (40280732)

12.20 Regional News (1227654) 12.30 *News* (Teletext) and weather (6255683) 12.55 *Shortland Street* (6200374) 1.25 *Coronation Street* (ITV) (6067374) 2.00 *Home and Away* (Teletext) (8797181) 2.25 *Film: Mission To Moscow* (1960) with Michael Friend, Beth Buchanan and Miguel Ayres. Adventure in a the Australian Outback with a youngster who stumbles across the headquarters of a secret group who set out to save the world. Concludes tomorrow (9513026)

3.20 News 3.25 Regional News (1323799) 3.30 *Alphabet Castle* (ITV) (s) (7516175) 3.40 *Wizards* (ITV) (s) (3523480) 3.50 *Chatterbox* (ITV) (3523954) 4.00 *Bugs Bunny* (ITV) (3523954) 4.15 *Wolf in the Next Generation* (847041) 4.45 *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* (1864935)

5.10 Wheel of Fortune (s) (5278799) 5.40 *News* (Teletext) and weather (756461) 6.00 *Home and Away* (ITV) (Teletext) (528138) 6.25 *ITV News* (Teletext) (110022) 7.00 *Sportsworld* (7683) 7.30 *Coronation Street*. Des has trouble adjusting to his new living arrangements. (Teletext) (751)

8.00 Film: Born Yesterday (1983) with Melanie Griffith, Don Johnson and John Goodman. A millionaire hires a journalist to bring his dumb blonde mistress up to the level of his Westinghouse peers. The boyfriend learns the showgirl may damage his reputation in the American capital. What he does not bargain for is what a brilliant pupil she will turn out to be. Directed by Luis Mandoki (Teletext) (9157)

10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (23913) 10.30 *ITV News* (Teletext) (245835) 10.40 *Mike Banks — Adventure Addict*. Focusing on the life of Mike Banks who at 73 refuses to let his age. His last for adventure has provided him with pioneering roles in rock climbing, mountaineering and polar exploration (100454)

11.10 James Dean — The First American Teenager (ITV) (321374) 12.40 *God's Gift* (4283220) 1.40 *cyber.cafe* (1803928) 2.10 *Dear Nick* (9389891) 3.10 *Bushell on the Box* (ITV) (s) (4502252) 3.40 *Nationwide Football League* (ITV) (s) (629423) 4.20 *Phenomenon* (4280952) 4.30 *The Time... the Place* (ITV) (s) (64707) 5.00 *Hot Gossip* (ITV) (s) (32610) 5.30 *Morning News* (Teletext) (27691)

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As HTV West except: 6.25pm *Wales Tonight* (110022) 7.00-7.30 *Cafe Biagi* (7683) 10.40 *Film: Disorganised Crime* (82047409)

WESTCOUNTRY
As HTV West except: 10.30am *Film: Matters of the Heart* (4172157) 12.55 *Coronation Street* (6200374) 1.25-1.55 *Good Advice* (8381190) 1.55 *Home and Away* (58543393) 2.25 *Healthy by Nature* (87971225) 2.55-3.20 *A Country Practice* (1387515) 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (5278799) 6.00 *Westcountry Live* (41664) 7.00-7.30 *Wheel of Fortune* (7683) 10.40 *Film: False Witness* (82047409)

CENTRAL
As HTV West except: 10.30am *Film: Matters of the Heart* (4172157) 12.55 *Home and Away* (6200374) 1.25 *Just a Minute* (8381190) 1.55 *A Country Practice* (89541732) 2.20 *People's Verdict* (87972954) 2.50-3.20 *Our House* (5860954) 5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (5278799) 6.25 *Central News and Weather* (110022) 7.00-7.30 *Wheel of Fortune* (7683) 10.40 *Central Sports Special* (237206) 11.40 *Phoenix* (974206) 12.40am *Bushell on the Box* (8592368) 2.15 *Dear Nick* (446455)

MERIDIAN
As HTV West except: 10.30 *Film: Race for Your Life, Charlie Brown* (2190225) 11.55 *Dungeons and Dragons* (8540688) 12.55pm *Coronation Street* (6200374) 1.25 *Home and Away* (8381190) 1.55 *Shortland Street* (80541732) 2.20-3.20 *Murder, She Wrote* (1708193) 5.10 *Home and Away* (5278799) 6.00 *Meridian Tonight* (515) 6.30 *Antiques Trail* (867) 7.00-7.30 *Wheel of Fortune* (7683) 10.40 *Meridian Focus* (100454) 11.10 *Meridian Masterclass* (924521) 11.45 *Max Monroe: Loose Cannon* (368964)

S4C
Starts: 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (43119) 9.00 *California Dreams* (717886) 9.25 *The Legend of White Fang* (7187645) 9.55 *Hangin' with Mr. Cooper* (6326138) 10.20 *Earl of Marnock* (150003) 10.45 *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* (5168225) 11.10 *Blaker Mice from Mars* (8135003) 11.25 *Dennis* (826652) 11.50 *Rocky's Modern Life* (832683) 12.00 *TinTin* (73436) 12.30pm *The Lonely Planet* (84515) 1.00 *Slot Meltdown: Rala Redline* (6086405) 1.35 *Film: Niagara* (33391157) 3.15 *The Montel Williams Show* (4778222) 4.00 *4.30 Fanny Rich* (654) 5.00 *Pumpkin Patch* (54617) 5.30 *Countdown* (916) 6.00 *Newyddion* (975022) 6.15 *Heno* (86888) 7.00 *Pobol Y Cwm* (649515) 7.25 *Y Trî Ddimensiwn* (496732) 8.00 *Hwyf Y Noson Lawen* (1645) 8.30 *Newyddion* (3480) 9.00 *Secret History* (3119) 10.00 *10.30 The Old House* (853119) 10.40 *Gothic* (90157) 11.30 *Cyfa* (28312) 12.00am *Homicide — Life on the Street* (21504)

54C
Starts: 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (43119) 9.00 *California Dreams* (717886) 9.25 *The Legend of White Fang* (7187645) 9.55 *Hangin' with Mr. Cooper* (6326138) 10.20 *Earl of Marnock* (150003) 10.45 *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* (5168225) 11.10 *Blaker Mice from Mars* (8135003) 11.25 *Dennis* (826652) 11.50 *Rocky's Modern Life* (832683) 12.00 *TinTin* (73436) 12.30pm *The Lonely Planet* (84515) 1.00 *Slot Meltdown: Rala Redline* (6086405) 1.35 *Film: Niagara* (33391157) 3.15 *The Montel Williams Show* (4778222) 4.00 *4.30 Fanny Rich* (654) 5.00 *Pumpkin Patch* (54617) 5.30 *Countdown* (91



FOOTBALL 36

Southgate faces future with renewed confidence

SPORT

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 28 1996

TENNIS 37

Rankings controversy rumbles on at Flushing Meadow



Maine Road chairman fights for survival in wake of Ball's departure

Struggling City turn to Graham

By DAVID MADDOCK

ALAN BALL, dismissed on Monday night as manager of Manchester City, was a victim of his own intolerance, but, above all else, he was a victim of the political wrangling that has been transformed into an art-form at Maine Road. That same tendency could cost them the services of George Graham, the only credible candidate to replace him.

City want Graham, badly. Francis Lee, the chairman, knows that his arrival would offer temporary salvation in a time of immense uncertainty. He confirmed privately yesterday that Graham, the former Arsenal manager, will be offered the job within the next week. A board meeting tonight will draw up a (very) short list with Graham's name at the top, but Lee does not know, despite some encouraging noises, if Graham will accept. Graham was disgraced after admitting taking illicit transfer payments, which earned him a suspension from the game, a suspension that has now expired, but his record still commands immense respect and he may decide that the City job, fraught as it is with political danger, is too risky. The fear is that he is merely using City to place his name in the spotlight while he waits for a more glamorous posting in the FA Carling Premiership.

So, what is it that could repel the high-profile manager that Lee so desperately needs? Ball went because his continuing presence was in danger of bringing down Lee. He resigned, but only to save his close friend and only ally from being forced to ask him to do so. The chairman was under siege, with demands from virtually all his directors to withdraw his stubborn support for the manager whom he appointed only 13 months ago.

There were—and still are—seeds being planted against the reign of Lee himself, with plots thickening in typical Manchester City fashion. A certain element within the club is slowly, and quietly, buying up shares in the pic



Lee shows the strain of a fraught few days at Maine Road as he describes the circumstances of Ball's departure to the media yesterday

and a hostile takeover could eventually result. Lee's autocratic rule, far from reducing the turmoil common in the past, has served only to exacerbate it, and the politics have become, if anything, nastier.

Lee had offered a hostage to fortune by saying recently that, if he had to sack Alan Ball, then he would quit himself. On Sunday evening, after phone calls from most of his plc board, he realised that there was no other option but to lose a battle in order to win the war by allowing Ball to go. A meeting was called and

the facts presented to the manager, who has lost only two games this season, albeit in a season that is still in its infancy. Ball accepted that his position was untenable without the support of his chairman and with the rest of the board, the supporters and even the players against him. He offered to resign to prevent any further blunders for the man who sacrificed him.

Ball remained tight-lipped over the affair last night, but the facts that emerged were not pretty. The manager never had the confidence of the supporters and quickly lost the faith of his own directors, but it was, Lee admitted, player-power that gave his opponents a stick with which to beat him.

When Ball charged into

Maine Road last July, he did it with nostrils flaring. He was determined to stamp his authority on the players, but succeeded only in ostracising most of them. They resented his aggressive posturing, the constant public criticism, the screaming and shouting in

City backing 12
Southgate's resolve 36
Simon Barnes 38

training and after matches, and they resented his inference that the players of today are not a patch on those of his generation.

One player admitted that he dreaded going back to Maine Road after international duty, where intelligent and con-

structive coaching would be exchanged for Ball's stream of abuse. Another revealed the contempt among the squad, who would privately mock Ball's longing for the old days. He was successful in 1966, they said, but it is now 1996.

There were spats, especially with the senior players, one particularly vehement over Georgie Kinkladze. Ball said that he was a genius comparable to Pelé, Best, Maradona and Rivelino, in different ways. The players said that he was lazy and an expensive luxury who cost them relegation.

Lee now has breathing space, but his problems will not go away. Ambitious talk of a big-name replacement could prove very costly. City will not get Kenny Dalglish, they will

not get Terry Venables — another target — and they could yet lose out on Graham. He endured politics at Arsenal and may not want a re-run. Yesterday, though, he made all the right noises when asked about a return to management at Maine Road.

"I would only consider going back with a club that had real ambition and real potential," he said. "I have had several offers, but they did not fit that criteria. City most certainly do, and I would be very interested in talking to them."

Officially, Lee was encouraged by that response: privately, he was cautious. Graham, he conceded, was the preferred choice, but he did not want to go too far over the top because he was still not sure if



Ball: demanding



Graham: successful

the disgraced former Arsenal manager would actually say yes. "George Graham saying he is interested does not mean he is definitely wants the job," Lee said.

If a big name does not arrive, then it is likely that the knives will be sharpened to an even finer point. If he can only offer a first division future by attracting a first division manager, Lee's days, even in the first division, will be numbered.

When asked about his own future yesterday, he merely mumbled: "I'm still committed. When I've had enough, you'll know, don't worry." That is certainly true, but what is not so clear is, with several parties still queuing up to buy City, just who will deliver the message.

Glamorgan sign up Waqar on two-year contract

By SIMON WILDE

WAQAR YOUNIS, who helped Pakistan to rout England in the third Test match at the Oval, yesterday signed a two-year contract to play for Glamorgan in 1997 and 1998. It will be his second spell with a county side; he spent three seasons with Surrey between 1990 and 1993.

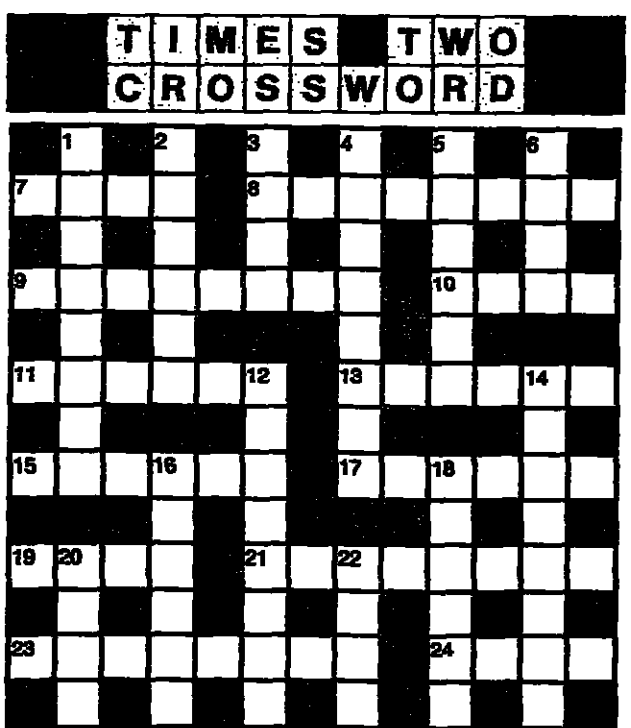
Once they were satisfied that Waqar had recovered from the back trouble that played its part in him failing to return for them in 1994 and 1995, Surrey joined the bidding for his services, but balked at paying the sort of sum Glamorgan are apparently willing to pay. Glamorgan have reportedly signed him in a deal worth up to £200,000. Durham were another interested party.

Waqar's salary is dependent on his fitness and availability. His international commitments are relatively modest this winter, but considerable in 1997-98, when Pakistan are scheduled to play four Test series. Glamorgan were obliged to sign him for a minimum of two years because he had previously played for another county. It is, nevertheless, an indication of Glamorgan's ambition, as was their capture of Viv Richards in 1990.

Waqar will succeed Otis Gibson, the West Indies all-rounder, as overseas player. Gibson, himself hampered by injury, failed to live up to the glowing references with which he joined Glamorgan on a three-year contract in 1994.

Surrey are expected to announce today that they will field Chris Lewis in their championship match against Warwickshire, which starts tomorrow, despite a request to omit him after England's disciplinary action against the player. The club yesterday released David Ward, while Jamie Hall has been released by Sussex.

Liam Bohan, 19, the son of Ian, the former England all-rounder, could make his debut for Hampshire in their match against Middlesex at Portsmouth today. Tim Tremlett, the Hampshire director of coaching, said: "There is a fair chance Liam will play. He has made good progress in the second XI and we have every confidence in him."



No 872

ACROSS

- 7 Seize roughly (4)
- 8 Slaughterhouse (8)
- 9 With grilled breadcrumbs on top (2,6)
- 10 Route, track (4)
- 11 A reptile; (The) promontory (6)
- 12 Prophetic shrine (6)
- 13 Girl martyred with 11,000 virgins (6)
- 14 Milling crowd (6)
- 15 Indian woman's garment (4)
- 21 Confuse (wits, eg with drink) (8)
- 23 Woman freed from husband (8)
- 24 Bludgeon; maths, function (4)

DOWN

- 1 Casino worker (8)
- 2 Spanish peninsula (6)
- 3 With no slack (4)
- 4 A waterproof (8)
- 5 Ideal state (Sir Thomas More) (6)
- 6 Sieve; examine with care (4)
- 12 Disadvantage (8)
- 14 Having disappeared ages ago (4,4)
- 16 Total agreement (6)
- 18 Make smaller (6)
- 20 Operatic song (4)
- 22 Substance converted to power (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 871

ACROSS: 1 Dock 3 Palpable 5 Mobster 10 Edges 11 Caesar's wife 13 Ambush 16 Bernese 18 Kieve 19 Egghead 22 Obscure 23 Skull 24 Sincere 25 Scam
DOWN: 1 Knapsack 2 Heath Robinson 4 Accord 5 Twaddle 6 Signature tune 7 Nord 8 Feet 15 Pandium 15 Bivouac 17 Vernier 20 Cusp 21 Moss

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2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLANDS domestic network is I Bracewell, West Thurrock, Essex. All flights subject to availability.

They paid the price of living in shadow of Old Trafford

Peter Ball looks at the hectic managerial merry-go-round of life at Maine Road

"IF YOU are a football manager, you don't buy fitted carpets," John Barnwell once said, a remark borne of experience in the profession, most famously at Wolverhampton Wanderers. If you are Manchester City manager, however, your safest bet is not even to buy a house, but find temporary, rented accommodation. Even by football's standards, the job at Maine Road has been notoriously precarious, as Alan Ball has just discovered.

Ball lasted a year and three games — about average. His replacement will be the club's eighth manager in 11 years, continuing a trend inseparable from the appointment of the late Peter Swales as chairman in 1973.

To lose one manager may be unlucky; to lose 14 in 24 years looks rather like carelessness. "If there was a cup for cock-ups, this club would win it every year," Francis Lee once observed memorably of City in his days as a player. The tradition continues, and, as chairman, Lee cannot be absolved of responsibility, but he has some way to go before he rivals his predecessor.

Swales had an unlucky start, taking over soon after Johnny Hart succumbed to illness. In his place came Ron Saunders, an abrasive figure who did not get on with senior figures in the dressing-room and, after taking the club to the 1974 League Cup final, he became Swales's first victim.

Saunders was replaced by Tony Book. It was to be Swales's most successful appointment. Book lasted five years, won the League Cup in 1976 and took the club to second place in the first division in 1977.

Swales, though, was not

satisfied. He was obsessed with City's neighbours' greater glamour and popularity and desperately wanted to make his club bigger than United. Book's low profile did not match Swales's dream and Malcolm Allison — "Big Mal" — was brought back, initially as coach. That did not last. Book, a great survivor, was given the title general manager and Allison was given an open cheque book.

Allison set about tearing apart the successful side of exciting home products like Peter Barnes and Gary Owen and experienced internationalists like Mick Channon and Dave Watson. In came a £250,000 teenager, Steve McKenzie, Steve Daley, the most over-priced midfielder player in history, for

£1,250,000 from Wolverhampton Wanderers, and City went down the tubes. Allison went. In his place came John Bond.

"It was unanimous, which is unusual for us," Peter Swales said of Bond's appointment. Bond lasted three years, took the side to the FA Cup Final in 1981, City's last appearance in a big final, and continued the Allison tradition of spending money like water, only with rather more purpose, buying Trevor Francis. A year later, after City had briefly reached fourth place, Francis had been sold as the urgency of the club's real financial position became realised.

By February 1983, the slide had begun and Bond resigned — or was persuaded to. He was replaced by John Benson, his assistant, who lasted four

months, getting the sack after City were relegated.

That began City's demise in earnest, the club yo-yoing between the first and second divisions as managers followed one another with ever-increasing speed. Billy McNeill, Jimmy Frizzell and Mel Machin came and went before Howard Kendall steadied the ship — but Kendall could not resist the lure of his first love, Everton.

He was succeeded by Peter Reid, one of the players he had brought in. Initially, Swales was reluctant to give the job to Reid, but his hand was forced. Reid was a success, taking a very ordinary team to fifth, fifth and ninth, but his disagreements with Swales over money for transfers became public, stoking the supporters' discontent. City began the 1993-94 season badly and, four games on, Reid was fired.

He was replaced by Brian Horton — "Brian Who?" to City supporters — just before protests brought in Lee as chairman. At first, Lee promised Horton his support. Eighteen months later, Horton had gone. Instead, Lee appointed his own man, his great friend, Ball. Ball's managerial history was chequered; he had taken Portsmouth to promotion to the first division, albeit with little money to strengthen the team, and suffered relegations with Exeter City and Stoke City.

He did better at Southampton and his success in handling Matthew Le Tissier suggested that his man-management skills had improved. City proved otherwise, but his successor will be handed a poisoned chalice, with no money and great expectations at a big club that too often behaves like a small one.

25 YEARS OF MANAGERIAL COMINGS AND GOINGS AT MAINE ROAD

Year	Manager	Pension for leaving
1972-3	Malcolm Allison	Resigned
1973	Johnny Hart	Resigned
1973-4	Ron Saunders	Sacked
1974-9	Tony Book	Appointed General Manager
1979-80	Malcolm Allison	Sacked
1980-3	John Bond	Resigned
1983	John Benson	Sacked
1983-6	Billy McNeill	Resigned
1986-7	Jimmy Frizzell	Appointed General Manager
1987-9	Mel Machin	Sacked
1990	Howard Kendall	Resigned
1990-3	Peter Reid	Sacked
1993-4	Brian Horton	Sacked
1995-6	Alan Ball	Resigned



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National Westminster Bank plc	15.2%	£136.50	£6,584.88	

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